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Presented by his Son
Worthington Chaunce
and
Paul Leicester Ford
to the
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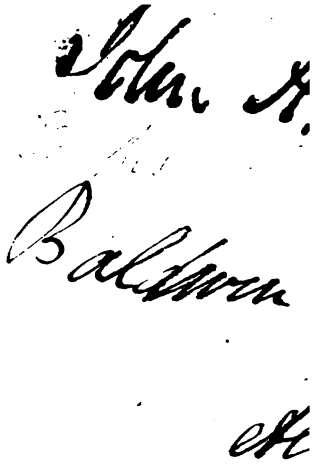

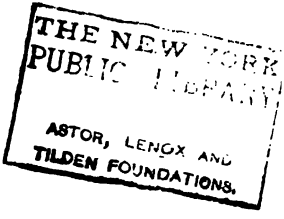
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THE LIFE & WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Written by Himself

NEW YORK

Published by Mahlon Day.

374 Pearl Street.

1834

THE

WORKS

OF

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

CONSISTING OF

ESSAYS,

HUMOUROUS, MORAL, AND LITERARY.

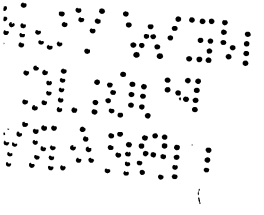
WITH

HIS LIFE,

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

NEW-YORK.
MAHLON DAY,
374 Pearl Street.

...OR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



PREFACE

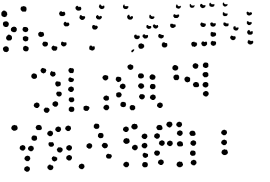
BY THE EDITOR.

AS biography is a species of history which record the lives and characters of remarkable persons it consequently becomes an interesting subject, and is of general utility. It would be but fair to assert, that almost every civilized nation on the globe has, at one period or other, produced distinguished individuals in various stations of life.

Mr. Jefferson, the President of the United States of America, in his "Notes on Virginia," thus speaks in answer to the assertion of the Abbé Raynal, that "America has not yet produced one good poet, one able mathematician, one man of genius, in a single art, or a single science."—"When we shall have exististed as a nation," says Mr. J. "as long as the Greeks did before they produced a Homer, the Romans a Virgil, the French a Racine and Voltaire, the English a Shakespeare and Milton; should this reproach be still true, we will inquire fom what unfriendly causes it has proceeded, that the other countries of Europe and quarters of the earth shall not have inscribed any name in the roll of poets. In war we have produced a Washington, whose memory will be adored whil liberty shall have votaries; whose name will triumph over time, and will in future ages assume its just station among the most celebrated worthies of the world, when that wretched philosophy shall be forgotten which would arrange him among the degeneracies of nature. In physics, we have produced a FRANKLIN, than whom no one of the present age has

In philosophy, England can boast of a
most eminent professor in this science the
ever produced. The Essays of this gre
one of the best proofs we can adduce o
scendent abilities; and America claims t
ened FRANKLIN, a man who has not left hi
hind him, and whose Life and Writings a
ject of the following sheets.

To say more in this place of our Author,
anticipating what is hereafter mentione
therefore only be necessary to add, that
tion has been paid in the selection of such
luctions as may be adapted to general per



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LIFE

OF

DR. FRANKLIN.

MY DEAR SON,

I HAVE amused myself with collecting some little anecdotes of my family. You may remember the inquiries I made, when you were with me in England, among such of my relations as were then living; and the journey I undertook for that purpose. To be acquainted with the particulars of my parentage and life, many of which are unknown to you, I flatter myself will afford the same pleasure to you as to me. I shall relate them upon paper: it will be an agreeable employment of a week's uninterrupted leisure, which I promise myself during my present retirement in the country. There are also other motives which induce me to the undertaking. From the bosom of poverty and obscurity, in which I drew my first breath, and spent my earliest years, I have raised myself to a state of opulence, and to some degree of celebrity in the world. A constant good fortune has attended me through every period of life to my present advanced age; and my descendants may be desirous of learning what were the means of which I made use, and which, thanks to the assisting hand of Providence, have proved so eminently successful.—They may also, should they ever be placed in a similar situation, derive some advantage from my narrative.

When I reflect, as I frequently do, upon the felicity I have enjoyed, I sometimes say to myself, that were the offer made true I would engage to run again, from

ll would I not decline the offer. But since
tition of life cannot take place, there is no
hich, in my opinion, so nearly resembles it,
ll to mind all its circumstances, and, to r
eir remembrance more durable, commit the
riting. By thus employing myself, I shall yie
e inclination, so natural in old men, to tal
emselves and their exploits, and may freely f
y best, without being tiresome to those who,
spect to my age, might think themselves oblig
ten to me; as they will be at liberty to read r
t as they please. In fine—and I may as well
since nobody would believe me were I to deny
hall, perhaps, by this employment, gratify my

Scarcely, indeed, have I ever heard or rea
roductory phrase, "*I may say without vanity,*"
me striking and characteristic instance of v
s, immediately followed. The generality of
fe vanity in others, however strongly they ma
ctured with it themselves: for myself, I pay
nce to it wherever I meet with it, persuaded th
advantageous, as well to the individual who
verns, as to those who are within the sphere o
luence. Of consequence, it would, in many c
t be wholly absurd, that a man should cour

may happen to me, as to so many others. My future fortune is unknown but to Him in whose hand is our destiny, and who can make our very afflictions subservient to our benefit.

One of my uncles, desirous, like myself, of collecting anecdotes of our family, gave me some notes, from which I have derived many particulars respecting our ancestors. From those I learn, that they had lived in the same village (Eaton, in Northamptonshire,) upon a freehold of about thirty acres, for the space at least of three hundred years. How long they had resided there, prior to that period, my uncle had been unable to discover; probably ever since the institution of surnames, when they took the appellation of Franklin, which had formerly been the name of a particular order of individuals.*

This petty estate would not have sufficed for their subsistence, had they not added the trade of black-

* As a proof that Franklin was anciently the common name of an order or rank in England, see Judge Fortesque, *De laudibus legum Angliæ* written about the year 1412, in which is the following passage, to show that good juries might easily be formed in any part of England:

"Regio etiam illa, ita respersa referaque est *possessoribus terrarum* et agrorum, quod vix villula tam parva, reperiri non poterit, in qua non est *miles, armiger*, vel paterfamilias, qualis ibidem *franklin* vulgaritur nuncupatur, magnis ditatus possessionibus, nec non libere tenentes et alii *valecti* plurimi, suis patrimoniis sufficientes, ad faciendum juratam, in forma prænotata."

"Moreover, the same country is so filled and replenished with landed menne, that therein so small a thorpe cannot be found wherein dwelleth not a knight, an esquire, or such a householder as is there commonly called a *franklin*, enriched with great possessions; and also other freeholders and many yeomen, able for their livelihood to make a jury in form aforementioned." *Old Translation.*

Chaucer too, calls his country-gentleman a *franklin*; and, after describing his good housekeeping, thus characterizes him:

This worthy franklin bore a purse of silk
Fix'd to his girdle, white as morning milk;
Knight of the shire, first justice at th' assize,
To help the poor, the doubtful to advise.
In all employments, generous, just, he prov'd,
Renown'd for courtesy, by all belov'd.

it of their births, marriages, and deaths, ear
the year 1555; the parish register not extend
her back than that period. This register inform
that I was the youngest son of the youngest bra
he family, counting five generations. My gra
er, Thomas, was born in 1598, lived at Eaton
was too old to continue his trade, when he reti
anbury, in Oxfordshire, where his son John, w
a dier, resided, and with whom my father w
enticed. He died, and was buried there:
his monument in 1758. His eldest son lived
family house at Eaton, which he bequeathed, w
and belonging to it, to his only daughter; w
ncert with her husband, Mr. Fisher, of Welli
ugh, afterwards sold it to Mr. Estead, the pres
rietor. . . . . .
y grandfather had four surviving sons, Thom
Benjamin, and Josias. I shall give you su
iculars of them as my memory will furnish,
ng my papers here, in which you will find a m
rte account, if they are not lost during my
e. . . . . .
homas had learned the trade of a blacksm
his father; but, possessing a good natural
anding, he improved it by study, at the solici

born. The recital that was made us of his life and character, by some aged persons of the village, struck you, I remember, as extraordinary, from its analogy to what you knew of myself. "Had he died," said you, "just four years later, one might have supposed a transmigration of souls."

John, to the best of my belief, was brought up to the trade of a wool-dier.

Benjamin served his apprenticeship in London to a silk-dier. He was an industrious man: I remember him well; for, while I was a child, he joined my father at Boston, and lived for some years in the house with us. A particular affection had always subsisted between my father and him; and I was his god-son. He arrived to a great age. He left behind him two quarto volumes of poems in manuscript, consisting of little fugitive pieces addressed to his friends. He had invented a short-hand, which he taught me, but, having never made use of it, I have now forgotten it. He was a man of piety, and a constant attendant on

... stationed at the door, to gi
ce if he saw the proctor (an officer of the spi
urt) make his appearance: in that case, the li
stored to its place, with the Bible concealed
as before. I had this anecdote from my uncle
min.

The whole family preserved its attachment t
urch of England till towards the close of the
Charles II. when certain ministers, who had
cted as nonconformists, having held convent
Northamptonshire, they were joined by Benja
l Josias, who adhered to them ever after. The
the family continued in the episcopal church.
ly father, Josias, married early in life. He w
h his wife and three children, to New-Engl
ut the year 1682. Conventicles being at that t
ibited by law, and frequently disturbed, s
iderable persons of his acquaintance determi
) to America, where they hoped to enjoy the
cise of their religion, and my father was prevai
) accompany them.

y father had also, by the same wife, four child
in America, and ten others by a second w
ng in all seventeen. I remember to have s
en seated together at his table, who all arri
ars of ...

and is in familiar verse, agreeably to the taste of the times and the country. The author addresses himself to the governors for the time being, speaks for liberty of conscience, and in favour of the anabaptists, quakers, and other sectaries, who had suffered persecution. To this persecution he attributes the wars with the natives, and other calamities which afflicted the country, regarding them as the judgments of God in punishment of so odious an offence, and he exhorts the government to the repeal of laws so contrary to charity. The poem appeared to be written with a manly freedom and a pleasing simplicity. I recollect the six concluding lines, though I have forgotten the order of words of the two first; the sense of which was, that his censures were dictated by benevolence, and that, of consequence, he wished to be known as the author; because, said he, I hate from my very soul dissimulation.

From Sherburn,* where I dwell,
I therefore put my name,
Your friend, who means you well,
PETER FOLGER.

My brothers were all put apprentices to different trades. With respect to myself, I was sent, at the age of eight years, to a grammar-school. My father destined me for the church, and already regarded me as the chaplain of my family. The promptitude with which, from my infancy, I had learned to read, for I do not remember to have been ever without this acquirement, and the encouragement of his friends, who assured him that I should one day certainly become a man of letters, confirmed him in this design. My uncle Benjamin approved also of the scheme, and promised to give me all his volumes of sermons, written, as I have said, in the short-hand of his invention, if I would take the pains to learn it.

I remained, however, scarcely a year at the grammar-school, although, in this short interval, I had risen from the middle to the head of my class, from thence

* Town in the island of Nantucket.

... poorly provided for, he renounced his fir
tions, took me from the grammar-school, and
to a school for writing and arithmetic, kept b
George Brownwell, who was a skilful mas
succeeded very well in his profession by em
gentle means only, and such as were calcul
encourage his scholars. Under him, I soon a
an excellent hand; but I failed in arithmet
made therein no sort of progress.

At ten years of age, I was called home to as
father in his occupation, which was that of soap
and tallow-chandler; a business to which h
served no apprenticeship, but which he embra
his arrival in New England, because he found hi
that of dier, in too little request to enable h
maintain his family. I was accordingly emplo
cutting the wicks, filling the moulds, taking ca
the shop, carrying messages, &c.

This business displeased me, and I felt a s
inclination for a sea life; but my father set his
against it. The vicinity of the water, however,
me frequent opportunities of venturing myself
upon and within it, and I soon acquired the a
swimming and of managing a boat. When em
ed with other children, the helm ...

perfect quagmire. My proposal was to erect a wharf that should afford us firm footing; and I pointed out to my companions a large heap of stones, intended for the building a new house near the marsh, and which were well adapted for our purpose. Accordingly, when the workmen retired in the evening, I assembled a number of my play-fellows, and by labouring diligently, like ants, sometimes four of us uniting our strength to carry a single stone, we removed hem all, and constructed our little quay. The workmen were surprised the next morning at not finding their stones, which had been conveyed to our wharf. Inquiries were made respecting the authors of this conveyance; we were discovered; complaints were exhibited against us; and many of us underwent correction on the part of my parents; and though I strenuously defended the utility of the work, my father at length convinced me, that nothing which was not strictly honest could be useful.

It will not, perhaps, be uninteresting to you to know what sort of a man my father was. He had an excellent constitution, was of a middle size, but well made and strong, and extremely active in whatever he undertook. He designed with a degree of neatness, and knew a little of music. His voice was sonorous and agreeable; so that when he sang a psalm or hymn, with the accompaniment of his violin, as was his frequent practice in an evening, when the labours of the day were finished, it was truly delightful to hear him. He was versed also in mechanics, and could, upon occasion, use the tools of a variety of trades. But his greatest excellence was a sound understanding and solid judgment, in matters of prudence, both in public and private life. In the former, indeed, he never engaged, because his numerous family, and the mediocrity of his fortune, kept him unremittingly employed in the duties of his profession. But I well remember, that the leading men of the place used frequently to come and ask his advice respecting the affairs of the town, or of the church to which he belonged, and that they paid much deference to his opinion. Individuals were also in the

might tend to form the mind
children. By this means he early attracted
tention to what was just, prudent, and bene
he conduct of life. He never talked of the
which appeared upon the table, never di
whether they were well or ill-dressed, of a g
bad flavour, high-seasoned or otherwise, pre
or inferior to this or that dish of a similar
Thus accustomed, from my infancy, to the utm
attention as to these objects, I have been perfec
gardless of what kind of food was before me;
pay so little attention to it even now, that it wo
a hard matter for me to recollect, a few hours a
had dined, of what my dinner had consisted. V
travelling, I have particularly experienced the a
tage of this habit; for it has often happened to
be in company with persons, who, having a
delicate, because a more exercised taste, have s
ed in many cases considerable inconvenience; w
as to myself, I have had nothing to desire.

My mother was likewise possessed of an exc
onstitution. She suckled all her ten children, a
ever heard either her or my father complain of
her disorder than that of which they died: m
er at the age of eighty-

"children. Let this example, reader, encourage thee "diligently to discharge the duties of thy calling, and "to rely on the support of Divine Providence.

"He was pious and prudent,
"She discreet and virtuous.
'Their youngest son, from a sentiment of filial duty,
"consecrates this stone to
"their memory."

I perceive, by my rambling digressions, that I am growing old. But we do not dress for a private company as for a formal ball. This deserves, perhaps, the name of negligence.

To return. I thus continued employed in my father's trade for the space of two years; that is to say, till I arrived at twelve years of age. About this time my brother John, who had served his apprenticeship in London, having quitted my father, and being married and settled in business on his own account at Rhode Island, I was destined, to all appearance, to supply his place, and be a candle-maker all my life; but my dislike of this occupation continuing, my father was apprehensive, that, if a more agreeable one were not offered me, I might play the truant and escape to sea; as, to his extreme mortification, my brother Josias had done. He therefore took me sometimes to see masons, coopers, braziers, joiners, and other mechanics, employed at their work; in order to discover the bent of my inclination, and fix it, if he could, upon some occupation that might retain me on shore. I have since, in consequence of these visits, derived no small pleasure from seeing skilful workmen handle their tools; and it has proved of considerable benefit, to have acquired thereby sufficient knowledge to be able to make little things for myself, when I have had no mechanic at hand, and to construct small machines for my experiments, while the idea I have conceived has been fresh and strongly impressed on my imagination.

My father at length decided that I should be a cutler, and I was placed for some days upon trial with my cousin Samuel, son of my uncle Benjamin, who

particularly plea
counts of voyages. My first acquisition
yan's collection in small separate volume
afterwards sold in order to buy a historica
by R. Burton, which consisted of small chea
amounting in all to about forty or fifty. M
little library was principally made up of
practical and polemical theology. I read
est part of them. I have since often regr
at a time when I had so great a thirst for k
more eligible books had not fallen into my
it was then a point decided that I should n
cated for the church. There was also amo
ther's books, Plutarch's Lives, in which I
tinually, and I still regard as advantageo
ployed the time I devoted to them. I found
a work of De Foe's, entitled an Essay on
from which, perhaps, I derived impressions
since influenced some of the principal even
life.

My inclination for books at last determine
ther to make me a printer, though he had a
son in that profession. My brother had
from England in 1717, with a press and typ
der to establish a printing-house at Bosto
business pleased

brother. I had now an opportunity of procuring better books. The acquaintance I necessarily formed with booksellers' apprentices, enabled me to borrow a volume now and then, which I never failed to return punctually and without injury. How often has it happened to me to pass the greater part of the night in reading by my bed-side, when the book had been lent me in the evening, and was to be returned the next morning, lest it might be missed or wanted.

At length Mr. Matthew Adams, an ingenious tradesman, who had a handsome collection of books, and who frequented our printing-house, took notice of me. He invited me to see his library, and had the goodness to lend me any books I was desirous of reading. I then took a strange fancy for poetry, and composed several little pieces. My brother, thinking he might find his account in it, encouraged me, and engaged me to write two ballads. One, called the Light-house Tragedy, contained an account of the shipwreck of Captain Worthilake and his two daughters; the other was a sailor's song on the capture of the noted pirate called *Teach*, or *Black-beard*. They were wretched verses in point of style, mere blindmen's ditties. When printed, he despatched me about town to sell them. The first had a prodigious run, because the event was recent, and had made a great noise.

My vanity was flattered by this success; but my father checked my exultation, by ridiculing my productions, and telling me that versifiers were always poor. I thus escaped the misfortune of being a very wretched poet. But as the faculty of writing prose has been of great service to me in the course of my life, and principally contributed to my advancement, I shall relate by what means, situated as I was, I acquired the small skill I may possess in that way.

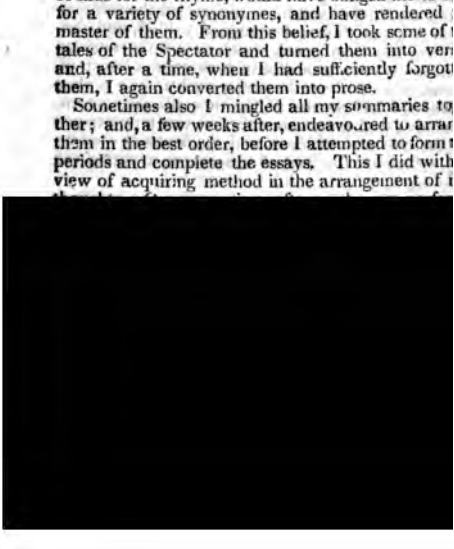
There was in the town another young man, a great lover of books, of the name of John Collins, with whom I was intimately connected. We frequently engaged in dispute, and were indeed so fond of argumentation, that nothing was so agreeable to us as a war of words. This contentious temper, I would observe by the by, is in danger of becoming a very bad habit, and frequently renders a man's company in-

...controversy. I have since remarked, t
of sense seldom fall into this error; lawyers,
of universities, and persons of every professi
cated at Edinburgh, excepted.

Collins and I fell one day into an argume
tive to the education of women; namely, wh
was proper to instruct them in the science
whether they were competent to the study.
supported the negative, and affirmed that th
was beyond their capacity. I maintained the
site opinion, a little perhaps for the pleasure
puting. He was naturally more eloquent th
words flowed copiously from his lips; and freq
I thought myself vanquished, more by his volu
than by the force of his arguments. We sepa
without coming to an agreement upon this point
as we were not to see each other again for some
I committed my thoughts to paper, made a fair
and sent it to him. He answered, and I re
Three or four letters had been written by each,
my father chanced to light upon my papers and
them. Without entering into the merits of the c
he embraced the opportunity of speaking to me
my manner of writing. He observed, that thou
had the advantage of my adversary in

to imitate it. With this view I selected some of
papers, made short summaries of the sense of e
period, and put them for a few days aside. I th
without looking at the book, endeavoured to rest
the essays to their due form, and to express e
thought at length, as it was in the original, empl
ing the most appropriate words that occurred to
mind. I afterwards compared my Spectator with
original; I perceived some faults, which I correct
but I found that I wanted a fund of words, if I n
so express myself, and a facility of recollecting
employing them, which I thought I should by t
time have acquired, had I continued to make vers
The continual need of words of the same meani
but of different lengths for the measure, or of differ
sounds for the rhyme, would have obliged me to s
for a variety of synonymes, and have rendered
master of them. From this belief, I took some of
tales of the Spectator and turned them into ver
and, after a time, when I had sufficiently forgot
them, I again converted them into prose.

Sometimes also I mingled all my summaries to
ther; and, a few weeks after, endeavoured to arra
them in the best order, before I attempted to form
periods and complete the essays. This I did with
view of acquiring method in the arrangement of



mode in which Tryon prepared some of his particularly how to boil potatoes and rice, and hasty puddings. I then said to my brother he would allow me per week half what he my board, I would undertake to maintain The offer was instantly embraced, and I soon that of what he gave me I was able to sav This was a new fund for the purchase of and other advantages resulted to me from th When my brother and his workmen left the pl house to go to dinner, I remained behind, an patching my frugal meal, which frequently co of a biscuit only, or a slice of bread and a bun raisins, or a bun from the pastry-cook's, with a of water, I had the rest of the time, till their r for study; and my progress therein was propor to that clearness of ideas, and quickness of co tion, which are the fruit of temperance in eatin drinking.

It was about this period that, having one day put to the blush for my ignorance in the art of c lation, which I had twice failed to learn wh school, I took Cocker's Treatise of Arithmetic went through it myself with the utmost ease. read a book of Navigation

... a sceptic; and, beir
... to many doctrines of Christianity,
es' method to be both the safest for r
as the most embarrassing to those ag
employed it. It soon afforded me sing
I incessantly practised it; and became
obtaining, even from persons of superio
ing, concessions of which they did no
consequence. Thus I involved them i
from which they were unable to extricate
and sometimes obtained victories, which
cause nor my arguments merited.

This method I continued to employ for s
but I afterwards abandoned it by degree
only the habit of expressing myself with
fidence, and never making use, when I adv
proposition which might be controverted, of
certainly, *undoubtedly*, or any others wh
give the appearance of being obstinately a
my opinion. I rather said, I imagine, I sup
appears to me, that such a thing is so or so
and such reasons; or it is so, if I am not
This habit has, I think, been of considerat
tage to me, when I have had occasion to in
opinion on the minds of others, and
the adoption of the

... love disputation, will leave you in possession of your errors. By following a thod, you can rarely hope to please your conciliate their good-will, or work conviction whom you may be desirous of gaining over views. Pope judiciously observes,

> Men must be taught as if you taught them not
> And things unknown proposed as things forgot

And in the same poem he afterwards advises

> To speak, though sure, with seeming diffidence

He might have added to these lines, one that coupled elsewhere, in my opinion, with less pr It is thus:

> For want of modesty is want of sense.

If you ask why I say with *less propriety*, I mu you the two lines together:

> Immodest words admit of *no defence*,
> For want of decency is want of sense.

pearance in America, and was entitled the "New England Courant." The only one that existed before was the "Boston News Letter." Some of his friends, I remember, would have dissuaded him from this undertaking, as a thing that was not likely to succeed; a single newspaper being, in their opinion, sufficient for all America. At present, however, in 1771, there are no less than twenty-five. But he carried his project into execution, and I was employed in distributing the copies to his customers, after having assisted in composing and working them off.

Among his friends he had a number of literary characters, who, as an amusement, wrote short essays for the paper, which gave it reputation, and increased the sale. These gentlemen frequently came to our house. I heard the conversation that passed, and the accounts they gave of the favourable reception of their writings with the public. I was tempted to try my hand among them; but, being still a child as it were, I was fearful that my brother might be unwilling to print in his paper any performance of which he should know me to be the author. I therefore contrived to disguise my hand, and having written an anonymous piece, I placed it at night under the door of the printing-house, where it was found the next morning. My brother communicated it to his friends, when they came as usual to see him, who read it, commented upon it within my hearing, and I had the exquisite pleasure to find that it met with their approbation, and that in their various conjectures they made respecting the author, no one was mentioned who did not enjoy a high reputation in the country for talents and genius. I now supposed myself fortunate in my judges, and began to suspect that they were not such excellent writers as I had hitherto supposed them. Be this as it may, encouraged by this little adventure, I wrote and sent to press, in the same way, many other pieces, which were equally approved: keeping the secret till my slender stock of information and knowledge for such performances was pretty completely exhausted, when I made myself known.

My brother, upon this discovery, began to entertain a little more respect for me; but he still regarded him-

... was generally in the wrong, or I was
pleader of the two, for judgment was commo
in my favour. But my brother was passion
often had recourse to blows, a circumstance
took in very ill part. This severe and ty
treatment contributed, I believe, to imprint
mind that aversion to arbitrary power, which
my whole life, I have ever preserved. My app
ship became insupportable to me, and I con
sighed for an opportunity of shortening it, wi
length unexpectedly offered.

An article inserted in our paper, upon some
cal subject which I have now forgotten, gave
to the Assembly. My brother was taken into c
censured, and ordered into confinement for a
because, I presume, he would not discover the a
I was also taken up, and examined before the
cil; but, though I gave them no satisfaction
contented themselves with reprimanding, and
dismissing me; considering me probably as bou
quality of apprentice, to keep my master's sec

The imprisonment of my brother kindled
sentment, notwithstanding our private quarrels
ing its continuance, the management of the
was entrusted to me, and I was [illegible]

ome. Some proposed to evade the order, by changing the title of the paper: but my brother foreseeing inconveniences that would result from this step, thought it better that it should in future be printed in the name of Benjamin Franklin; and, to avoid the censure of the Assembly, who might charge him with still printing the paper himself, under the name of his apprentice, it was resolved that my old indenture should be given up to me, with a full and entire discharge written on the back, in order to be produce upon an emergency: but that, to secure to my brother the benefit of my service, I should sign a new contract, which should be kept secret during the remainder of the term. This was a very shallow arrangement. It was, however, carried into immediate execution, and the paper continued, in consequence, to make its appearance for some months in my name. At length a new difference arising between my brother and me, I ventured to take advantage of my liberty, presuming that he would not dare to produce the new contract. It was undoubtedly dishonourable to avail myself of this circumstance, and I reckon this action as one of the first errors of my life, but I was little capable of estimating it at its true value, embittered as my mind had been by the recollection of the blows I had received. Exclusive of his passionate treatment to me, my brother was by no means a man of an ill temper, and perhaps my manners had too much impertinence not to afford it a very natural pretext.

When he knew that it was my determination to quit him, he wished to prevent my finding employment elsewhere. He went to all the printing-houses in the town, and prejudiced the masters against me; who accordingly refused to employ me. The idea then suggested itself to me of going to New-York, the nearest town in which there was a printing office. Farther reflection confirmed me in the design of leaving Boston, where I had already rendered myself an object of suspicion to the governing party. It was probable, from the arbitary proceedings of the Assembly in the affair of my brother, that, by remaining, I should soon have been exposed to difficulties, which I had the greater reason to apprehend, as, from my indiscreet

sage with a captain of a New-York sloop he represented me as a young man of hi ance, who had an affair with a girl of bad whose parents wished to compel me to mar of consequence I could neither make my ap nor go off publicly. I sold part of my boo cure a small sum of money, and went pr board the sloop. By favour of a good winc myself in three days at New-York, nearly th dred miles from my home, at the age only teen years, without knowing an individua place, and with very little money in my pock

The inclination I had felt for a sea-faring entirely subsided, or I should now have beer gratify it; but, having another trade, and belie self to be a tolerable workman, I hesitated no my services to the old Mr. William Bradford, been the first printer in Pennsylvania, but had the province on account of a quarrel with Keith, the governor. He could not give me ment himself, having little to do, and already persons as he wanted; but he told me that printer at Philadelphia, had lately lost his p workman, Aquila Rose, who was dead, and would go thither. he believed

...tion I had nev
...glish language. I have since learn
been translated into almost all the lan
rope, and, next to the Bible, I am persu
of the books that has had the greatest sp
John is the first, that I know of, who ha
rative and dialogue together; a mode of
engaging to the reader, who in the mo
passages finds himself admitted, as it w
company, and present at the conversatio
has imitated it with success in his Robin
his Moll Flanders, and other works; as al
son in his Pamela, &c.

In approaching the island, we found t
made a part of the coast where it was not
land, on account of the strong breakers pr
the rocky shore. We cast anchor and vee
ble towards the shore. Some men who stoo
brink, halloed to us, while we did the sar
part; but the wind was so high, and the wave
that we could neither of us hear each othe
were some canoes upon the bank, and we
to them, and made signs to prevail on them
and take us up; but either they did not unde
or they deemed our request impracticable,
drew. Night came on and
...

journey on foot. I
.....s to walk, in order to reach Burlington
was told I should find passage-boats that w
vey me to Philadelphia. It rained hard t
day, so that I was wet to the skin. Findin
fatigued about noon, I stopped at a paltry in
I passed the rest of the day and the whole r
ginning to regret that I had quitted my home.
besides so wretched a figure, that I was susp
be some runaway servant. This I discovere
questions that were asked me; and I felt tha
every moment in danger of being taken up a
The next day, however, I continued my journ
arrived in the evening at an inn, eight or te
from Burlington, that was kept by one Dr. Bro

This man entered into conversation with m
I took some refreshment, and perceiving that
read a little, he expressed towards me consi
interest and friendship. Our acquaintance cor
during the remainder of his life. I believe him t
been what is called an itinerant doctor; for the
no town in England, or indeed in Europe, of wh
could not give a particular account. He was
deficient in understanding or literature, but he
sad infidel; and, some years after, wickedly
took to travesty the Bible [illegible]

but she was little aware of the capita
necessary for such a purpose! I was
her house with true hospitality. She
the utmost good-will, a dinner of beef-st
accept of nothing in return but a pint

Here I imagined myself to be fixed ti
in the ensuing week; but, walking out
by the river side, I saw a boat with a n
sons in it approach. It was going to
and the company took me in. As there
we could only make way with our oars.
night, not perceiving the town, some of
were of opinion that we must have p
were unwilling to row any farther; the re
ing where we were, it was resolved tha
stop. We drew towards the shore, ente
and landed near some old palisades, whic
for firewood, it being a cold night in Octo
we staid till day, when one of the compan
place in which we were to be Cooper's Cr
above Philadelphia; which, in reality we
the moment we were out of the creek. We
Sunday about eight or nine o'clock in the
and landed on Market-street wharf.

I have entered into

... towards the top of the street, lo
gerly on both sides, till I came to Market-stre
I met with a child with a loaf of bread. O
I made my dinner on dry bread. I inquir
he had bought it, and went straight to the
shop which he pointed out to me. I asked
biscuits, expecting to find such as we had at
but they made, it seems, none of that sort a
delphia. I then asked for a three-penny loaf.
made no loaves of that price. Finding myse
rant of the prices, as well as of the different k
bread, I desired him to let me have three
worth of bread of some kind or other. He g
three large rolls. I was surprised at recei
much: I took them, however, and having no r
my pockets, I walked on with a roll under eac
eating the third. In this manner I went throug
ket-street to Fourth-street, and passed the ho
Mr. Read, the father of my future wife. Sh
standing at the door, observed me, and thoug
reason, that I made a very singular and grotesq
pearance.

I then turned the corner, and went through
nut-street, eating my roll all the way; and
made this round, I found myself ...

...ently the first house I
slept in Philadelphia.

I began again to walk along the
side; and, looking attentively in the
I met with, I at length perceived
whose countenance pleased me. I a
begged him to inform me where a str
a lodging. We were then near the si
Mariners. They receive travellers he
it is not a house that bears a good cha
will go with me, I will show you a be
conducted me to the Crooked Billet, in
There I ordered something for dinner, an
meal, a number of curious questions wer
my youth and appearance exciting the s
my being a runaway. After dinner my
returned, and I threw myself upon a bed w
ing off my clothes, and slept till six o'clo
evening, when I was called to supper. I a
went to bed at a very early hour, and did no
till the next morning.

As soon as I got up I put myself in as decent
as I could, and went to the house of Andrew
ford, the printer. I found his father in
I had seen at New-York. Ha
back, he had arrived
introduced

the old man was.

I found Keimer's printing materials to consist of an old damaged press, and a small fount of worn out English letters, with which he himself was at work upon an elegy on Aquila Rose, whom I have mentioned above, an ingenious young man, and of an excellent character, highly esteemed in the town, secretary to the assembly, and a very tolerable poet. Keimer also made verses, but they were indifferent ones. He could not be said to write in verse, for his method was to set the lines as they flowed from his muse; and as he worked without copy, had but one set of letter-cases, and the elegy would probably occupy all his types, it was impossible for any one to assist him. I endeavoured to put his press in order, which he had not yet used, and which indeed he understood nothing: and, having promised to come and work off his elegy as soon as it should be ready, I returned to the house of Brad who gave me some trifle to do for the present, for I had my board and lodging.

In a few days Keimer sent for me to print his elegy. He had now procured another set of cases, and had a pamphlet to re-print, upon which he set me to work.

The two Philadelphia printers appear

of every qualification necessary in their profession. Bradford had not been brought up to it, and was very illiterate. Keimer, though he understood a little of the business, was merely a compositor, and wholly incapable of working at press. He had been one of the French prophets, and knew how to imitate their supernatural agitations. At the time of our first acquaintance he professed no particular religion, but a little of all upon occasion. He was totally ignorant of the world, and a great knave at heart, as I had afterwards an opportunity of experiencing.

Keimer, could not endure that, working with him, I should lodge at Bradford's. He had indeed a house, but it was unfurnished; so that he could not take me in. He procured me a lodging at Mr. Reed's, his landlord, whom I have already mentioned. My trunk and effects being now arrived, I thought of making, in the eyes of Miss Reed, a more respectable appearance than when chance exhibited me to her view, eating my roll, and wandering in the streets.

From this period I began to contract acquaintance with such young people as were fond of reading, and spent my evenings with them agreeably, while at the same time, I gained money by my industry, and, thanks to my frugality, lived contented. I thus forgot Boston as much as possible, and wished every one to be ignorant of the place of my residence, except my friend Collins; to whom I wrote, and who kept my secret.

An incident however arrived, which sent me home much sooner than I had proposed. I had a brother-in-law, by the name of Robert Holmes, master of a trading sloop from Boston to Delaware. Being at New castle, forty miles below Philadelphia, he heard of me, and wrote to inform me of the chagrin which my sudden departure from Boston had occasioned my parents, and of the affections which they still entertained for me, assuring me that, if I would return, every thing should be adjusted to my satisfaction; and he was very pressing in his entreaties; I answered his letter, thanked him for his advice, and explained the reasons which had induced me to quit Boston, with

f very promising talents, and that, o[illegible]
ought to be encouraged; that there were at Philadelphia none but very ignorant printers, and that if I were to set up for myself, he had no doubt of my success; that, for his own part, he would procure me all the public business, and would render me every other service in his power. My brother-in-law related all this to me afterwards at Boston; but I knew nothing of it at the time; when one day Keimer and I, being at work together near the window, we saw the Governor and another gentleman, Colonel French, of Newcastle, handsomely dressed, cross the street, and make directly for our house. We heard them at the door, and Keimer, believing it to be a visit to himself, went immediately down; but the Governor inquired for me, came up stairs, and, with a condescension and politeness to which I had not at all been accustomed, paid me many compliments, desired to be acquainted with me, obligingly reproached me for not having made myself known to him on my arrival in the town, and wished me to accompany him to a tavern, where he and Col. French were going to taste some excellent Madeira wine.

I was, I confess, somewhat surprised, and Keimer appeared thunderstruck. I went, however, with the Governor and the Colonel to a tavern, at the corner of

...it every now an... ...time with him. I considered thi... honour; and was the more sensible o... versed with me in the most affable, friendly manner imaginable.

Towards the end of April, 1724, a sr... ready to sail for Boston. I took leave ... on the pretext of going to see my paren... rernor gave me a long letter, in which I... flattering things of me to my father; and... commended the project of my settling at P... as a thing which could not fail to make m...

Going down the bay we struck on a flat, a leak. The weather was very tempestuo... were obliged to pump without intermission... turn. We arrived, however, safe and sou... ton, after about a fortnight's passage.

I had been absent seven complete month... relations, during the interval, had received... gence of me; for my brother-in-law, Holme... yet returned, and had not written about me... expected appearance surprised the family; were all delighted at seeing me again, and, brother, welcomed me home. I went to h... printing-house. I was better dress... been while in his ...

get or forgive it; in this, however, he was mi

The Governor's letter appeared to excite ther some surprise; but he said little. After s Captain Holmes being returned, he showe asking him if he knew Keith, and what sort he was: adding, that, in his opinion, it pro little discernment to think of setting up a bo ness, who, for three years to come, would an age to be ranked in the class of men. Ho every thing he could in favour of the scheme father firmly maintained its absurdity, and at a positive refusal. He wrote, however, a c to Sir William, thanking him for the protectic so obligingly offered me, but refusing to assi the present, because he thought me too you entrusted with the conduct of so important prise, and which would require so considera of money.

My old comrade, Collins, who was a cle post-office, charmed with the account I ga new residence, expressed a desire of going and, while I waited my father's determinati off before me by land for Rhode Island, le books, which formed a handsome collection matics and natural philosophy, to be conv

... was all I could obtain from him
trifling presents, in token of friendship
my mother. I embarked once more f
furnished at this time with their app
blessing. The sloop having touched at
Rhode Island, I paid a visit to my broth
had for some years been settled there, and
He had always been attached to me, and
me with great affection. One of his fr
name was Vernon, having a debt of abo
pounds due him in Pennsylvania, begged m
it for him, and to keep the money till I s
from him; accordingly he gave me an ord
purpose. This affair occasioned me, in t
much uneasiness.

At Newport we took on board a number
gers; among whom were two young women, a
and sensible quaker lady with her servant
shown an obliging forwardness in rendering t
some trifling services, which led her, probab
an interest in my welfare; for when she saw
arity take place, and every day increase, bet
two young women and me, she took me a
said, "Young man, I am in pain for thee. T
no parent to watch over thy con
to be im

them, and had them punished. And thus, i
been saved from one rock concealed under
which the vessel struck during our passag
another of a still more dangerous nature.

At New-York, I found my friend Collin
arrived some time before. We had been in
our infancy, and had read the same bool
but he had the advantage of being able to
time to reading and study, and an astonish
tion for mathematics, in which he left me
him. When at Boston, I had been accusto
with him almost all my leisure hours. H
a sober and industrious lad, his knowledge
him a very general esteem, and he seemed t
make an advantageous figure in society.
my absence, he had unfortunately addicted
brandy, and I learned, as well from hims
the report of others, that every day since hi
New-York, he had been intoxicated, and h
a very extravagant manner. He had also
lost all his money; so that I was obliged to
penses at the inn, and to maintain him dur
of his journey; a burthen that was very i
to me.

We arrived at Philadelphia. On the way I received Vernon's money, without which we should have been unable to have finished our journey.

Collins wished to get employment as a merchant's clerk; but either his breath or his countenance betrayed his bad habit; for though he had recommendations, he met with no success, and continued to lodge and eat with me, and at my expense. Knowing that I had Vernon's money, he was continually asking me to lend him some of it; promising to repay me as soon as h should get employment. At last he had drawn so much of this money, that I was extremely alarmed at what might become of me, should he fail to make good the deficiency. His habit of drinking did not at all diminish, and was a frequent source of discord between us; for when he had drank a little too much, he was very headstrong.

Being one day in a boat together, on the Delaware, with some other young persons, he refused to take his turn in rowing. "You shall row for me," said he, "till we get home."—"No," I replied, "we will not row for you."—"You shall," said he, "or remain upon the water all night."—"As you please." Let us row, said the rest of the company; what signifies whether he assists or not. But, already angry with him for his conduct in other respects, I persisted in my refusal. He then swore that he would make me row, or would throw me out of the boat; and he made up to me. As soon as he was within my reach, I took him by the collar, gave him a violent thrust, and threw him head foremost into the river. I knew that he was a good swimmer, and was therefore under no apprehensions for his life. Before he could turn himself, we were able, by a few strokes of our oars, to place ourselves out of his reach; and, whenever he touched the boat, we asked him if he would row, striking his hands at the same time with the oars to make him let go his hold. He was nearly suffocated with rage, but obstinately refused making any promise to row. Perceiving, at length, that his strength began to be exhausted, we took him into the boat, and conveyed him home, in the evening, completely drenched. The utmost coldness subsisted between us after this adventure. At last the captain

was one of the first great errors of my li
proves my father was not mistaken when h
me too young to be entrusted with the m
of important affairs. But Sir William, up
his letter, thought him too prudent. There
ference, he said, between individuals: year
rity were not always accompanied with
neither was youth in every instance de
"Since your father," added he, will not set
business, I will do it myself. Make out a li
will be wanted from England, and I will s
articles. You shall repay me when you can
termined to have a good printer here, and
you will succeed." This was said with so n
ing cordiality, that I suspected not for an
sincerity of the offer. I had hitherto kept t
with which Sir William had inspired me, o
business, a secret at Philadelphia, and I still
to do so. Had my reliance on the gov
known, some friend, better acquainted wit
racter than myself, would doubtless have a
not to trust him; for I afterwards learned t
universally known to be liberal of promise
had no intention to perform. But having
cited him, how could I suppose his offers to

stationers and booksellers." This I acknowledged was desirable. "That being the case," added he, "hold yourself in readiness to go with the Annis." This was the annual vessel, and the only one, at that time, which made regular voyages between the ports of London and Philadelphia. But the Annis was not to sail for some months. I therefore continued to work with Keimer, unhappy respecting the sum which Collins had drawn from me, and almost in continual agony at the thoughts of Vernon, who fortunately made no demand of his money till seven years after.

In the account of my first voyage from Boston to Philadelphia, I omitted, I believe, a trifling circumstance, which will not, perhaps, be out of place here. During a calm, which stopped us above Block Island, the crew employed themselves in fishing for cod, of which they caught a great number. I had hitherto adhered to my resolution of not eating any thing that had possessed life; and I considered, on this occasion agreeably to the maxims of my master Tyron, the capture of every fish as a sort of murder, committed without provocation, since these animals had neither done, nor were capable of doing, the smallest injury to any one that should justify the measure. This mode of reasoning I conceived to be unanswerable. Meanwhile, I had formerly been extremely fond of fish; and, when one of these cods was taken out of the frying-pan, I thought its flavour delicious. I hesitated some time between principle and inclination, till at last recollecting, that when the cod had been opened, some small fish were found in its belly, I said to myself, if you eat one another, I see no reason why we may not eat you. I accordingly dined on the cod with no small degree of pleasure, and have since continued to eat like the rest of mankind, returning only occasionally to my vegetable plan. How convenient does it prove to be a *rational animal*, that knows how to find or invent a plausible pretext for whatever it has an inclination to do.

I continued to live upon good terms with Keimer, who had not the smallest suspicion of my projected establishment. He still retained a portion of his former enthusiasm, and, being fond of argument, we fre-

and would scarcely answer the most plain a
pular question without previously asking me—
would you infer from that? Hence he formed
an opinion of my talents for refutation, that h
ously proposed to me to become his colleague
establishment of a new religious sect. He was
pagate the doctrine by preaching, and I to refut
opponent.

When he explained to me his tenets, I found
absurdities which I refused to admit, unless he
agree in turn to adopt some of my opinions.
wore his beard long, because Moses had som
said, "Thou shalt not mar the corners of thy
He likewise observed the Sabbath; and thes
with him two very essential points. I dislike
both; but I consented to adopt them, provi
would agree to abstain from animal food. "I
said he, "whether my constitution will be able
port it." I assured him on the contrary, that he
find himself the better for it. He was naturally
ton, and I wished to amuse myself by starving h
consented to make trial of this regimen, if I
bear him company; and, in reality, we conti
for three months. A woman in the neighbo
prepared and brought us our victuals, to whom I

I continued it cheerfully; but poor Keimer suffered terribly. Tired of the project, he sighed for the flesh-pots of Egypt. At length he ordered a roast pig, and invited me and two of our female acquaintance to dine with him; but the pig being ready a little too soon, he could not resist the temptation, and eat it all up before we arrived.

During the circumstances I have related, I had paid some attentions to Miss Read. I entertained for her the utmost esteem and affection; and I had reason to believe that these sentiments were mutual. But we were both young, scarcely more than eighteen years of age; and, as I was on the point of undertaking a long voyage, her mother thought it prudent to prevent matters being carried too far for the present, judging that, if marriage was our object, there would be more propriety in it after my return, when, as at least I expected, I should be established in my business. Perhaps also she thought that my expectations were not so well founded as I imagined.

My most intimate acquaintances at this time were Charles Osborne, Joseph Watson, and James Ralph; young men who were all fond of reading. The two first were clerks to Mr. Charles Brockden, one of the principal attorneys in the town, and the other, clerk to a merchant. Watson was an upright, pious, and sensible young man: the others were somewhat more loose in their principles of religion, particularly Ralph, whose faith, as well as that of Collins, I had contributed to shake, each of whom made me suffer a very adequate punishment. Osborne was sensible, and sincere and affectionate in his friendships, but too much inclined to the critic in matters of literature. Ralph was ingenious and shrewd, genteel in his address, and extremely eloquent. I do not remember to have met with a more agreeable speaker. They were both enamoured of the muses, and had already evinced their passion by some small poetical productions.

It was the custom with us to take a charming walk on Sundays, in the woods that border the Skuylkill. Here we read together, and afterwards conversed on what we read. Ralph was disposed to give himself up entirely to poetry. He flattered himself that on

...though you have no capital, or so far succeeding a
be employed as a factor; and may thus, in time,
quire the means of setting up for yourself." I c
curred in these sentiments, but at the same time
pressed my approbation of amusing ourselves so
time with poetry, with a view to improve our st
In consequence of this it was proposed, that, at
next meeting, each of us should bring a copy of ver
of his own composition. Our object in this comp
tion was to benefit each other by our mutual remar
criticisms, and corrections; and as style and expr
sion were all we had in view, we excluded every i
of invention, by agreeing that our task should b
version of the eighteenth psalm, in which is descril
the descent of the Deity.

The time of our meeting drew near, when Ra
called upon me, and told me that his performa
was ready. I informed him that I had been idle, a
not much liking the task, had done nothing. He sho
ed me his piece, and asked me what I thought of
I expressed myself in terms of warm approbatio
because it really appeared to have considerable me
He then said, "Osborne will never acknowledge
smallest degree of excellence in any production
mine. Envy alone dictates to him a thousand a

Ralph did it justice, remarking a few imperfections, and applauding such parts as were excellent. He had himself nothing to show. It was now my turn. I made some difficulty; seemed as if I wished to be excused; pretended that I had no time to make corrections, &c. No excuse, however, was admissible, the piece must be produced. It was read and re-read. Watson and Osborne immediately resigned the palm and united in applauding it. Ralph alone made a few remarks, and proposed some alterations; but I defended my text. Osborne agreed with me, and told Ralph that he was no more able to criticise than he was able to write.

When Osborne was alone with me, he expressed himself still more strongly in favour of what he considered as my performance. He pretended that he had put some restraint on himself before, apprehensive of my construing his commendations into flattery. "But who would have supposed," said he, "Franklin to be capable of such a composition? What painting, what energy, what fire! He has surpassed the original. In his common conversation he appears not to have a choice of words; he hesitates, and is at a loss; and yet, good God, how he writes."

At our next meeting, Ralph discovered the trick we had played Osborne, who was rallied without mercy.

By this adventure Ralph was fixed in his resolution of becoming a poet. I left nothing unattempted to divert him from his purpose; but he persevered, till at last the reading of Pope* effected his cure: he became, however, a very tolerable prose writer. I shall speak more of him hereafter; but as I shall probably have no farther occasion to mention the other two, I ought to observe here, that Watson died a few years after in my arms. He was greatly regretted; for he was the best of our society. Osborne went to the islands where he gained considerable reputation as a barrister, and was getting money; but he died young.

* Probably the Dunciad, where we find him thus immortalized by the author:

Silence ye wolves, while Ralph to Cynthia howls
And makes night hideous; answer him ye owls!

point that was decided. I was to take with r
of recommendation to a number of his frier
particularly a letter of credit, in order to ob
necessary sum for the purchase of my pres
and paper. He appointed various times fo
come for these letters, which would certainly b
and; when I came, always put me off to anot

These successive delays continued till th
whose departure had been several times defer
on the point of setting sail; when I again wer
William's house, to receive my letters and tal
of him. I saw his secretary, Dr. Bard, who t
that the Governor was extremely busy writing,
he would be down at Newcastle before the ves
that the letters would be delivered to me there

Ralph, though he was married and had a ch
ermined to accompany me in this voyage. I
ect was supposed to be the establishing a
ondence with some mercantile houses, in or
ell goods by commission: but I afterwards l
hat, having reason to be dissatisfied with the p
f his wife, he proposed to himself to leave
heir hands, and never return to America again

Having taken leave of my friends, and inten

... obliged to
... the crew. Being unknowi
the ship, we were looked upon as o
der of people: but Mr. Hamilton an
James, who was afterwards governor
castle, and returned to Philadelphia
recalled at a very great expense, to ple
a vessel that had been seized; and ju
about to sail, Colonel French came
showed me many civilities. The pa
this paid me more attention, and I w
gether with my friend Ralph, to occupy
the cabin which the return of the Messr
had made vacant; an offer which we
accepted.

Having learned that the despatches of th
had been brought on board by Colonel Fre
the captain for the letters that were to be e
my care. He told me that they were all p
in the bag, which he could not open at pr
before we reached England, he would give
portunity of taking them out. I was sat
this answer, and we pursued our voyage.

The company in the cabin were all ve
and we were perfectly well off as to
we had the advantage of

... to have nothing to
him or his letters." He instantly put the l
my hand, turned upon his heel, and left me,
some customers.

I was astonished at finding these letters
from the Governor. Reflecting, and putting
stances together, I then began to doubt his s
I rejoined my friend Denham, and related th
affair to him. He let me at once into Keit
racter, told me there was not the least pro
of his having written a single letter; that no
knew him ever placed any reliance on him, and
ed at my credulity in supposing that the G
would give me a letter of credit, when he
credit for himself. As I showed some uneasin
pecting what step I should take, he advised m
to get employment in the house of some
"You may there," said he, "improve your
business, and you will be able to settle yours
more advantageously when you return to Am

We knew already as well as the stationer, a
Liddlesden to be a knave. He had nearly
the father of Miss Read, by drawing him in to
security. We learned from his letter, that
secretly carrying on an intrigue, in concert ...

...s, sensible and
...writer, and a good governc
though not so for the proprietaries, w
he frequently disregarded. Many c
were his work, and established during
ion.

Ralph and I were inseparable con
took a lodging together at three and six
which was as much as we could afford.
some relations in London, but they were
able to assist him. He now, for the first
ed me of his intention to remain in Engl
he had no thoughts of ever returning to P
He was totally without money; the little I
able to raise having barely sufficed for his
had still fifteen pistoles remaining; and to
from time to time recourse, while he tried
ployment.

At first believing himself possessed of
the stage, he thought of turning actor; but
whom he applied, frankly advised him to
the idea, as it was impossible he could suc
next proposed to Roberts, a bookseller in
ter-row, to write a weekly paper in the mar
Spectator, upon terms to which Ro...
ten. Lastly, he endea...

madverted on those passages. It was entit
sertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure
dedicated it to my friend Ralph, and prin
number of copies. Palmer, upon this, trea
more consideration, and regarded me as a
of talents; though he seriously took me to
principles of my pamphlet, which he look
abominable. The printing of this work w
error of my life.

While I lodged in Little Britain, I forr
quaintance with a bookseller of the name
whose shop was next door to me. Circul
ries were not then in use. He had an in
lection of books of all sorts. We agreed
reasonable retribution, of which I have no
the price, I should have free access to his
take what books I pleased, which I wa
when I had read them. I considered this
as a very great advantage; and I derive
much benefit as was in my power.

My pamphlet falling into the hands of
of the name of Lyons, author of a book en
fallibility of Human Judgment," was th
of a considerable intimacy between us. H
great esteem for me, came frequently to
order to converse upon metaphysical su
introduced me to Dr. Mandeville, author
ole of the Bees, who had instituted a club

...ged in the same house wit
woman, a milliner, who had a shop by t
Exchange. Lively and sensible, and ha
an education somewhat above her rank, l
tion was very agreeable. Ralph read
every evening. They became intimate.
another lodging, a..d he followed her. Th
some time together; but Ralph being witho
ment, she having a child, and the profits o
ness not sufficing for the maintenance of th
solved to quit London, and try a country scho
was a plan in which he thought himself like
ceed; as he wrote a fine hand, and was v
arithmetic and accounts. But considering th
as beneath him, and expecting some day to
better figure in the world, when he should be a
of its being known that he had exercised a pr
so little honourable, he changed his name, a
me the honour of assuming mine. He wrote
soon after his departure, informing me that
settled at a small village in Berkeshire. In hi
he recommended Mrs. T. the milliner, to my ca
requested an answer, directed to Mr. Franklin,
master, at N***.

He continued to write

Ralph of my conduct, and the [illegible]
breach between us. When he returned
he gave me to understand that he consi
obligations he owed me as annihilated
ceeding; whence I concluded that I was
pect the payment of what money I had
advanced on his account. I was the les
this, as he was wholly unable to pay me
losing his friendship, I was relieved at th
from a very heavy burden.

I now began to think of laying by s
The printing-house of Watts, near L
fields, being a still more considerable o
in which I worked, it was probable I
more advantageous to be employed the
myself, and was accepted; and in this
tinued during the remainder of my stay

On my entrance, I worked at first as
conceiving that I had need of bodily
which I had been accustomed in Americ
printers work alternately as compositor
press. I drank nothing but water. Th
men, to the number of about fifty, were
of beer. I carried, occasionally, a large
in each hand, up and down stairs, whil
ployed both hands to carry one. They w
o see, by this, and many other examp
American Aquatic, as they used to
stronger than those who drank porter.

ple; but he had need, he said, of all this beer, in or
der to acquire strength to work.

I endeavoured to convince him that the bodily strength furnished by the beer, could only be in pro portion to the solid part of the barley dissolved in the water of which the beer was composed: that there was a larger portion of flour in a penny loaf, and that consequently if he ate this loaf, and drank a pint of water with it, he would derive more strength from it than from a pint of beer. This reasoning, however did not prevent him from drinking his accustomed quantity of beer, and paying every Saturday night a score of four or five shillings a-week for this cursed beverage; an expense from which I was wholly exempt. Thus do these poor devils continue all their lives in a state of voluntary wretchedness and poverty.

At the end of a few weeks, Watts having occasion for me above stairs as a compositor, I quitted the press. The compositors demanded of me garnish

gorge themselves with beer, often lost their cre
the publican, from neglecting to pay their score
had then recourse to me, to become security fo
their light, as they used to call it, *being out*.
tended at the pay-table every Saturday even
take up the little sum which I had made my
swerable for; and which sometimes amou
nearly thirty shillings a week.

This circumstance, added to my reputation
ing a tolerable good *gabber*, or, in other words
in the art of burlesque, kept up my importanc
chapel. I had besides recommended mysel
esteem of my master by my assiduous applic
business, never observing Saint Monday. M
ordinary quickness in composing always p
me such work as was most urgent, and which
monly best paid; and thus my time passed
a very pleasant manner.

My lodging in Little Britain being too far f
printing-house, I took another in Duke-stree
site the Roman Catholic chapel. It was at t
of an Italian warehouse. The house was ke
widow, who had a daughter, a servant, and
boy; but the latter slept out of the house.
sending to the people with whom I lodged i
Britain, to inquire into my character, she ag
take me in at the same price, three and six
week; contenting herself she said with so lit

...ers was so amusing to
glad to pass the evening with her as
sired it. Our supper consisted only
chovy a-piece, upon a slice of bread a
half a pint of ale between us. But th
was in her conversation.

The early hours I kept, and the littl
casioned in the family, made her lod
me; and when I mentioned another
found, nearer the printing-house, at t
week, which fell in with my plan of sa
suaded me to give it up, making herself
of two shillings: and thus I continued
her, during the remainder of my abode i
eighteen-pence a week.

In a garret of the house there lived, in
tired manner, a lady, seventy years of ag
I received the following account from m
She was a Roman Catholic. In her earl
had been sent to the continent, and entere
with the design of becoming a nun; but
not agreeing with her constitution, she v
to return to England, where, as there were
teries, she made a vow to lead a monasti
rigid a manner as circumstance
accordingly

... which was seen t
culous impression of the face of Christ, whic
plained to me with great gravity. Her counte
as pale, but she had never experienced sick
d I may adduce her as another proof how h
fficient to maintain life and health.

At the printing-house, I contracted an inti
th a sensible young man of the name of Wy
o, as his parents were in good circumstances
eived a better education than is common a
nters. He was a tolerable Latin scholar, s
nch fluently, and was fond of reading. I ta
, as well as a friend of his, to swim, by ta
m twice only into the river; after which
d in need of no farther assistance. We one
le a party to go by water to Chelsea, in ord
the College, and Don Soltero's curiosities.
return, at the request of the company, whose
ity Wygate had excited, I undressed myself,
ed into the river. I swam from near Chelsea
le way to Black-friars-bridge, exhibiting, du
course, a variety of feats of activity and addi
upon the surface of the water, as well as u
This sight occasioned much astonishment
ure to those to whom it was new. In my v
k great delight ...

: was on the point of consenting, when I mentione
A to my friend, Mr. Denham, with whom I was gla
e pass an hour whenever I had leisure. He di
suaded me from the project, and advised me to thin
of returning to Philadelphia, which he was about t
do himself. I must relate in this place a trait of thi
worthy man's character.

He had formerly been in business at Bristol, bu
failing, he compounded with his creditors, and de
parted for America, where, by assiduous applicatio
as a merchant, he acquired in a few years a very con
siderable fortune. Returning to England in the sam
vessel with myself, as I have related above, he in
vited all his old creditors to a feast. When assem
bled, he thanked them for the readiness with whic
they had received his small composition; and, whil
they expected nothing more than a simple entertain

William Wyndham. I went to his house. by some means heard of my performance: Chelsea and Blackfriars, and that I had ar' ' swimming to Wygate and another y in the course of a few hours. His two son the point of setting out on their travels; I sirous that they should previously learn to s offered me a very liberal reward if I would to instruct them. They were not yet arrive and the stay I should make was uncertain not therefore accept his proposal. I was ever, to suppose from this incident, that wished to remain in London, and open a school, I should perhaps have gained a gre money. The idea struck me so forcibly, the offer been made sooner, I should have the thought of returning as yet to Americ years after, you and I had a more importan to settle with one of the sons of Sir Willia ham, then Lord Egremont. But let us not events.

I thus passed about eighteen months i working almost without intermission at avoiding all expense on my own account, ing now and then to the play, and purcha books. But my friend Ralph kept me poor. me about twenty-seven pounds, which was money lost, and when considered as taker

minutely related. We landed at Philadelphia on the 11th of the following October.

Keith had been deprived of his office of governor, and was succeeded by Major Gordon. I met him walking in the streets as a private individual. He appeared a little ashamed at seeing me, but passed on without saying any thing.

I should have been equally ashamed myself at meeting Miss Read, had not her family, justly despairing of my return after reading my letter, advised her to give me up, and marry a potter, of the name of Rogers; to which she consented: but he never made her happy, and she soon separated from him, refusing to cohabit with him, or even bear his name, on account of a report which prevailed, of his having another wife. His skill in his profession had seduced Miss Read's parents; but he was as bad a subject as

confided to the care of the testamentary
who dismissed me.

My brother-in-law, Holmes, who happen
at Philadelphia, advised me to return to m
profession; and Keimer offered me a very c
ble salary if I would undertake the manag
his printing-office, that he might devote hi
tirely to the superintendence of his shop.
and relations in London had given me a ba
tor of him; and I was loth, for the present
any concern with him. I endeavoured to get
ment as a clerk to a merchant; but not rea
ing a situation, I was induced to accept
proposal.

The following were the persons I found in
ing-house.

Hugh Meredith, a Pennsylvanian, about t
years of age. He had been brought up to hu
was honest, sensible, had some experience,
fond of reading; but too much addicted to

Stephen Potts, a young rustic, just bro
school, and of rustic education, with end
rather above the common order, and a compe
tion of understanding and gayety; but a l
Keimer had engaged these two at very lo
which he had promised to raise every three
shilling a week, provided their improvemer
typographic art should merit it. This future

...ved that Keimer's inte
...g me at a price so much above wha
tomed to give, was, that I might form
journeymen and apprentices, who sca
any thing, and who, being indentured, v
as they should be sufficiently instructe
to do without me. I nevertheless ad
agreement. I put the office in order, v
the utmost confusion, and brought his pe
grees, to pay attention to their work, and
it in a more masterly style.

It was singular to see an Oxford scholar
dition of a purchased servant. He was not
eighteen years of age; and the following a
ticulars he gave me of himself. Born at G
he had been educated at a grammar-school,
distinguished himself among the scholars, l
perior style of acting, when they represente
tic performances. He was member of a lite
in the town; and some pieces of his compo
prose as well as in verse, had been inserte
Gloucester papers. From hence he was se
ford, where he remained about a year, but
not contented, and wished above all thi
London, and become an ...
received fifteen ...

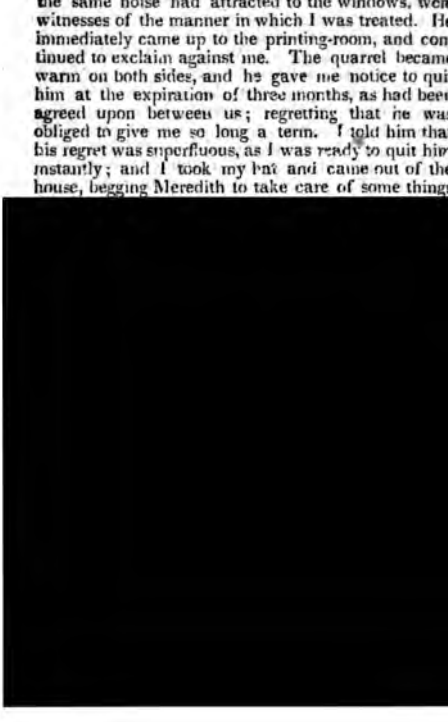
John, the Irishman, soon ran away. live very agreeably with the rest. They me, and the more so as they found Keimer f instructing them, and as they learned rom me every day. We never worked o day, it being Keimer's sabbath; so that days a-week for reading.

I increased my acquaintance with person ledge and information in the town. Keim treated me with great civility and apparer and I had nothing to give me uneasiness, b to Vernon, which I was unable to pay, my yet being very little. He had the goodness not to ask me for the money.

Our press was frequently in want of the quantity of letter; and there was no such that of letter-founder in America. I had practice of this art at the house of James, i but had, at the time, paid it very little att however contrived to fabricate a mould. I of such letters as we had for punches, for letters of lead in matrices of clay, and thus in a tolerable manner, the wants that v pressing.

I also, upon occasion, engraved various c made ink, gave an eye to the shop; in sho in every respect, the *factotum*. But useful myself, I perceived that my services beca

ing that his ill-humour was partly occasioned by the derangement and embarrassment of his affairs. At last a slight incident broke our connexion. Hearing a noise in the neighbourhood, I put my head out at the window to see what was the matter. Keimer being in the street, observed me, and, in a loud and angry tone, told me to mind my work; adding some reproachful words, which piqued me the more, as they were uttered in the street; and the neighbours, whom the same noise had attracted to the windows, were witnesses of the manner in which I was treated. He immediately came up to the printing-room, and continued to exclaim against me. The quarrel became warm on both sides, and he gave me notice to quit him at the expiration of three months, as had been agreed upon between us; regretting that he was obliged to give me so long a term. I told him that his regret was superfluous, as I was ready to quit him instantly; and I took my hat and came out of the house, begging Meredith to take care of some things



when more closely connected with him, I
him entirely of this unfortunate habit.

I gave the father a list of what it would
ry to import from London. He took it to
and the order was given. We agreed to
cret till the arrival of the materials, an
the mean time to procure work, if possible
printing-house; but there was no place v
remained idle. After some days, Keimer
expectation of being employed to print
Jersey money bills, that would require ty
gravings which I only could furnish, and
Bradford, by engaging me, might deprive
undertaking, sent me a very civil message
that old friends ought not to be disunited
of a few words, which were the effect on
mentary passion, and inviting me to ret
Meredith persuaded me to comply with th
particularly as it would afford him more o
of improving himself in the business by
instructions. I did so; and we lived upon
than before our separation.

He obtained the New-Jersey business;
der to execute it, I constructed a copper-pl
press, the first that had been seen in the
engraved various ornaments and vignettes
and we repaired to Burlington together, w
cuted the whole to general satisfaction: an

than the law had prescribed. Accordingly they were constantly with us, each in his turn; and he that came commonly brought with him a friend or two to bear him company. My mind was more cultivated by reading than Keimer's; and it was for this reason probably, that they set more value on my conversation. They took me to their houses, introduced me to their friends, and treated me with the greatest civility; while Keimer, though master, saw himself a little neglected. He was, in fact, a strange animal, ignorant of the common modes of life, apt to oppose with rudeness generally received opinions, an enthusiast in certain points of religion, disgustingly unclean in his person, and a little knavish withal.

We remained there nearly three months; and at the expiration of this period I could include in the list of my friends, Judge Allen, Samuel Bustil, secretary of the province, Isaac Pearson, Joseph Cooper, several of the Smiths, all members of the Assembly, and Isaac Decon, inspector-general. The last was a

ended by the writers; for the arguments of the
which were cited in order to be refuted, appea
ne much more forcible than the refutation itsel
t word, I soon became a perfect deist. My
nents perverted some other young persons, pa
arly Collins and Ralph. But in the sequel, w
ecollected that they had both used me extreme
vithout the smallest remorse; when I consider
ehaviour of Keith, another free-thinker, and m
onduct towards Vernon and Miss Read, whi
imes, gave me great uneasiness, I was led to st
hat this doctrine, though it might be true, wa
ery useful. I began to entertain a less favou
pinion of my London pamphlet, to which I ha
xed, as a motto, the following lines of Dryden

> Whatever is is right; though purblind man
> Sees but part of the chain, the nearest link,
> His eyes not carrying to the equal beam
> That poises all above.

nd of which the object was to prove, from the
utes of God, his goodness, wisdom and power
ere could be no such thing as evil in the world
ice and virtue did not in reality exist, and
othing more than vain distinctions. I no long
rded it as so blameless a work as I had for
magined: and I suspected that some error must

resolution in my Journal, to practise them as long as I lived.

Revelation, indeed, as such, had no influence on my mind; but I was of opinion that, though certain actions could not be bad merely because revelation had prohibited them, or good because it enjoined them, yet it was probable that those actions were prohibited because they were bad for us, or enjoined because advantageous in their nature, all things considered. This persuasion, Divine Providence, or some guardian angel, and perhaps a concurrence of favourable circumstances co-operating, preserved me from all immorality, or gross and *voluntary* injustice, to which my want of religion was calculated to expose me, in the dangerous period of youth, and in the hazardous situations in which I sometimes found myself, among strangers, and at a distance from the eye and admonitions of my father. I may say *voluntary*, because the errors into which I had fallen, had been,

always prognosticating ruin. [illegible] stamp at Philadelphia. He was a man of so declined in years, had an air of wisdom, and grave manner of speaking. His name was S Mickle. I knew him not; but he stopped one my door, and asked me if I was the young ma had lately opened a new printing-house. Up answering in the affirmative, he said that he wa sorry for me, as it was an expensive undertakin the money that had been laid out upon it wo lost, Philadelphia being a place falling into dec inhabitants having all, or nearly all of them obliged to call together their creditors. That he from undoubted fact, the circumstances which lead us to suppose the contrary, such as new ings, and the advanced price of rent, to be de appearances, which, in reality, contributed to the general ruin; and he gave me so long a de misfortunes, actually existing, or which were take place, that he left me almost in a state of d Had I known this man before I entered into t should doubtless never have ventured. He co however, to live in this place of decay, and to c in the same style, refusing for many years t house, because all was going to wreck; and,

...., and were to t
...ere desire of truth; the plea
ing, and the vanity of triumph, havir
the business; and in order to prevent n
every expression which implied obstin
o an opinion, and all direct contradicti
hibited, under small pecuniary penalties

The first members of our club were Jc
nal, whose occupation was that of a sci
was a middle-aged man, of a good natu
tion, strongly attached to his friends, a gr
poetry, reading every thing that came in h
writing tolerably well, ingenious in many l
and of an agreeable conversation.

Thomas Godfrey, a skilful, though self-t
thematician, and who was afterwards the i
what now goes by the name of Hadley's dia
had little knowledge out of his own line, an
supportable in company, always requiring
majority of mathematicians that have fall
way, an unusual precision in every thing tha
continually contradicting, or making trifling
tions; a sure way of defeating all the end
versation. He very soon left us.

Nicholas Scull, a surveyor, and who
wards, surveyor-general

have ever met with. He became a
merchant, and one of our provincial jud
friendship subsisted, without interruption,
han forty years, till the period of his death
lub continued to exist almost as long.

This was the best school for politics and p
that then existed in the province; for our
which were read once a week previous to
cussion, induced us to peruse attentively, a
as were written upon the subjects propose
might be able to speak upon them more p
We thus acquired the habit of conversing i
ably; every object being discussed conform
regulations, and in a manner to prevent
gust. To this circumstance may be attr
long duration of the club; which I shall ha
occasion to mention as I proceed.

I have introduced it here, as being one o
on which I had to count for success in m
every member exerting himself to procu
us. Breintnal, among others, obtained fo
part of the quakers, the printing of for
their history; of which the rest was to
Keimer. Our execution of this work
means masterly; as the price was very l

This unwearied industry, which was perceived by our neighbours, began to acquire us reputation and credit. I learned, among other things, that our new printing-house, being the subject of conversation at a club of merchants, who met every evening, it was the general opinion that it would fail; there being already two printing-houses in the town, Keimer's and Bradford's. But Dr. Bard, whom you and I had occasion to see, many years after, at his native town of St. Andrew's, in Scotland, was of a different opinion. "The industry of this Franklin (said he) is superior to any thing of the kind I have ever witnessed. I see him still at work when I return from the club at night, and he is at it again in the morning before his neighbours are out of bed." This account struck the rest of the assembly, and, shortly after, one of its members came to our house, and offered to supply us with articles of stationary; but we wished not, as yet, to embarrass ourselves with keeping a shop. It is not for the sake of applause that I enter so freely into the particulars of my industry, but that such of my descendants as shall read these memoirs may know the use of this virtue, by seeing, in the recital of my life, the effects it operated in my favour.

George Webb, having found a friend who lent him the necessary sum to buy out his time of Keimer, came one day to offer himself to us as a journeyman. We could not employ him immediately; but I foolishly told him, under the rose, that I intended shortly to publish a new periodical paper, and that we should then have work for him. My hopes of success, which I imparted to him, were founded on the circumstance, that the only paper we had in Philadelphia at that time, and which Bradford printed, was a paltry thing, miserably conducted, in no respect amusing, and which yet was profitable. I consequently supposed that a good work of this kind could not fail of success. Webb betrayed my secret to Keimer, who, to prevent me, immediately published the *prospectus* of a paper that he intended to institute himself, and in which Webb was to be engaged.

I was exasperated at this proceeding, and, with a view to counteract them being able at present to

ford's paper; and ... we turned into ridicule, was ... He began, notwithstanding, his paper; and continuing it for nine months, having, at ... more than ninety subscribers, he offered it ... a mere trifle. I had for some time been ... such an engagement; I therefore instantly ... upon myself, and in a few years it proved ... profitable to me.

I perceive that I am apt to speak in the ... son, though our partnership still continued ... perhaps, because, in fact, the whole business ... upon me. Meredith was no compositor, ... indifferent pressman; and it was rarely ... stained from hard drinking. My friends ... to see me connected with him; but I could ... rive from it the utmost advantage the ... other paper which had appeared in the ... to type and printing; but some remarkable ... liar style of writing, upon the dispute ... prevailed between Governor Burnet ... shusetts Assembly, struck some persons ... diarity, caused the paper and its editor ... and, in a few weeks, induced the ... Many others followed ... to

Assembly to the Governor, had been executed by him in a very coarse and incorrect manner. We reprinted it with accuracy and neatness, and sent a copy to every member. They perceived the difference; and it so strengthened the influence of our friends in the Assembly, that we were nominated its printer for the following year.

Among these friends, I ought not to forget one member in particular, Mr. Hamilton, whom I have mentioned in a former part of my narrative, and who was now returned from England. He warmly interested himself for me on this occasion, as he did likewise on many others afterwards; having continued his kindness to me till his death.

About this period Mr. Vernon reminded me of the debt I owed him, but without pressing me for payment. I wrote a handsome letter on the occasion, begging him to wait a little longer, to which he consented; and as soon as I was able, I paid him principal and interest, with many expressions of gratitude; so that this error of my life was, in a manner, atoned for.

But another trouble now happened to me, which I had not the smallest reason to expect. Meredith's father, who, according to our agreement, was to defray the whole expense of our printing materials, had only paid a hundred pounds. Another hundred was still due, and the merchant being tired of waiting, commenced a suit against us. We bailed the action, but with the melancholy prospect, that, if the money was not forthcoming at the time fixed, the affair would come to issue, judgment be put in execution, our delightful hopes be annihilated, and ourselves entirely ruined, as the type and press must be sold, perhaps at half their value, to pay the debt.

In this distress, two real friends, whose generous conduct I have never forgotten, and never shall forget, while I retain the remembrance of anything, came to me separately, without the knowledge of each other, and without my having applied to either of them. Each offered whatever money might be necessary to take the business into my own hands, if the thing was practicable, as they did not like

were still disposed to do, if they had the power; but, in the end, should they fail in their engagement, and our partnership be dissolved, I should then think myself at liberty to accept the kindness of my friends.

Things remained for some time in this state. At last, I said one day to my partner, "Your father is perhaps dissatisfied with your having a share only in the business, and is unwilling to do for two, what he would do for you alone. Tell me frankly, if that be the case, and I will resign the whole to you, and do for myself as well as I can." "No, (said he) my father has really been disappointed in his hopes; he is not able to pay, and I wish to put him to no farther inconvenience. I see that I am not at all calculated for a printer; I was educated as a farmer, and it was absurd in me to come here, at thirty years of age, and bind myself apprentice to a new trade. Many of my countrymen are going to settle in North Carolina, where the soil is exceedingly favourable. I am tempted to go with them, and to resume my former occupation. You will, doubtless, find friends who will assist you. If you will take upon yourself the debts of the partnership, return my father the hundred pounds he has advanced, pay my little personal debts [illegible] pounds, and a new saddle, I will

... disobliging p
..., I accepted from each, h
had offered me, and which it was necessa
have. I paid the partnership debts, and
the business on my own account; taking ca
the public, by advertisement, of the partn
ing dissolved. This was, I think, in the y
or thereabout.

Nearly at the same period, the people der
new emission of paper-money; the existing
one that had taken place in the province, an
amounted to fifteen thousand pounds, being
expire. The wealthy inhabitants, prejudiced
every sort of paper currency, from the fear of
preciation, of which there had been an insta
the province of New-England, to the injury
holders, strongly opposed this measure. We ha
cussed this affair in our Junto, in which I was
side of the new emission; convinced that the
mall sum, fabricated in 1723, had done much
n the province, by favouring commerce, industry
opulation, since all the houses were now inha
nd many others building; whereas I remember
ve seen when I first paraded the streets of I
lphia eating my roll, the majority of those
-street, Second-street. Fo...

myself to write.

Time and experience so fully demons utility of paper currency, that it never a rienced any considerable opposition; so th amounted to 55,000*l.* and in the year 1739 It has since risen, during the last war, t trade, buildings, and population, having i val continually increased: but I am now that there are limits beyond which paper mo be prejudicial.

I soon after obtained, by the influence of Hamilton, the printing of the Newcastle pa another profitable work, as I then thoug things appearing great to persons of modera and they were really great to me, as provin courageements. He also procured me the the laws and votes of that government, w tained as long as I continued in the busine

I now opened a small stationer's sho bonds and agreements of all kinds, drav more accurate form than had yet been s part of the world; a work in which I was my friend Breintnal. I had also paper, pasteboard, books, &c. One Whitemash lent compositor, whom I had known in Lo

by stealth, and occasioned no scandal; and, to show that I did not think myself above my profession, I conveyed home sometimes in a wheelbarrow, the paper I had purchased at the warehouses.

I thus obtained the reputation of being an industrious young man, and very punctual in his payments. The merchants, who imported articles of stationary, solicited my custom; others offered to furnish me with books, and my little trade went on prosperously.

Meanwhile, the credit and business of Keimer diminishing every day, he was at last forced to sell his stock to satisfy his creditors; and he betook himself to Barbadoes, where he lived for some time in a very impoverished state. His apprentice, David Harry, whom I had instructed while I worked with Keimer, having bought his materials, succeeded him in the business. I was apprehensive, at first, of finding in Harry a powerful competitor, as he was allied to an opulent and respectable family; I therefore proposed a partnership, which, happily for me, he rejected with disdain. He was extremely proud, thought himself a fine gentleman, lived extravagantly, and pursued amusements which suffered him to be scarcely ever at home; of consequence he became in debt, neglected his business, and business neglected him. Finding in a short time, nothing to do in the country he followed Keimer to Barbadoes, carrying his printing materials with him. There the apprentice employed his old master as a journeyman. They were continually quarrelling; and Harry, still getting in debt, was obliged, at last, to sell his press and types, and return to his old occupation of husbandry in Pennsylvania. The person who purchased them, employed Keimer to manage the business: but he died a few years after.

I had now at Philadelphia, no competitor but Bradford, who, being in easy circumstances, did not engage in the printing of books, except now and then as workmen chanced to offer themselves; and was not anxious to extend his trade. He had, however, one advantage over me, as he had the direction of the post-office, and was, of consequence, supposed to have better opportunities of obtaining news. His paper was also supposed to be more advantageous to adver-

by bribing the post-boys, who served me only by stealth, Bradford being so illiberal as to forbid them. This treatment of his excited my resentment; and my disgust was so rooted, that, when I afterwards succeeded him in the post-office, I took care to avoid copying his example.

I had hitherto continued to board with Godfrey, who, with his wife and children, occupied part of my house, and half of the shop for his business; at which, indeed, he worked very little, being always absorbed by mathematics. Mrs. Godfrey formed a wish of marrying me to the daughter of one of her relations. She contrived various opportunities of bringing us together, till she saw that I was captivated; which was not difficult; the lady in question possessing great personal merit. The parents encouraged my addresses, by inviting me continually to supper, and leaving us together, till at last it was time to come to an explanation. Mrs. Godfrey undertook to negotiate our little treaty. I gave her to understand, that I expected to receive with the young lady, a sum of money that would enable me, at least, to discharge the remainder of the debt for my printing materials. It was then, I believe, not more than a hundred pounds. She brought me for answer, that they had no mo-

... they please
... above, I never went again t
Some time after, Mrs. Godfrey inform
they were favourably disposed toward m
ed me to renew the acquaintance; but I
firm resolution never to have any thing
with the family. The Godfreys expresse
sentment at this; and as we could no lo
they changed their residence, leaving me
tion of the whole house. I then resolved t
more lodgers. This affair having turned my
o marriage, I looked around me, and made
f alliance in other quarters; but I soon fo
he profession of a printer, being generally
pon as a poor trade, I could expect no mon
wife, at least, if I wished her to possess an
arm. Meanwhile, that passion of youth, s
lt to govern, had often drawn me into intrigu
picable women who fell in my way; whic
unaccompanied with expense and inconve
des the perpetual risk of injuring my healt
hing a disease which I dreaded above all
I was fortunate enough to escape this dan
a neighbour and old acquaintance, I ha
friendly intimacy with the family of Mr
arents had retained

of which his successor might be sure ...
nevertheless, in spite of all these difficul
married her on the 1st of September, 173(
the inconveniences we had feared, happ
She proved to me a good and faithful
and contributed essentially to the success
We prospered together, and it was our m
to render each other happy. Thus I c
well as I could, this great error of my yo

Our club was not at that time establi
vern. We held our meetings at the h
Grace, who appropriated a room to t
Some member observed, one day, that a
were frequently quoted in the course of
sions, it would be convenient to have th
in the room in which we assembled, in
consulted upon occasion, and that, by th
common library of our individual colle
would have the advantage of using the
the other members, which would nearly
as if he possessed them all himself. I
approved, and we accordingly brought s
we thought we could spare, which were
end of the club-room. They amounted
ry as we expected; and though we had

[The life of Dr. Franklin, as written by himself, so far as it has yet been communicated to the world, breaks off in this place. We understand that it was continued by him somewhat farther, and we hope that the remainder will, at some future period, be communicated to the public. We have no hesitation in supposing, that every reader will find himself greatly interested by the frank simplicity, and the philosophical discernment by which these pages are so eminently characterized. We have therefore thought proper, in order, as much as possible. to relieve his regret, to subjoin the following continuation by one of the Doctor's intimate friends. It is extracted from an American periodical publication, and was written by the late Dr. Stuber,* of Philadelphia.

* Dr. Stuber was born in Philadelphia, of German parents. He was sent, at an early age, to the university, where his genius, diligence, and amiable temper, soon acquired him the particular notice and favour of those under whose immediate direction he was placed. After passing through the common course of study, in a much shorter time than usual, he left the university, at the age of sixteen, with great reputation. Not long after, he entered on the study of physic; and the zeal with which he pursued it, and the advances he made, gave his friends reason to form the most flattering prospects of his future eminence and usefulness in his profession. As Dr. Stuber's circumstances were very moderate, he did not think this pursuit well calculated to answer them. He therefore relinquished it, after he had obtained a degree in the profession, and qualified himself to practice with credit and success; and immediately entered on the study of the law. While in pursuit of the last mentioned object, he was prevented, by a premature death, from reaping the fruit of those talents with which he was endowed, and of a youth spent in the ardent and successful pursuit of useful and elegant literature.

were too much immersed in business to th
entific pursuits; and those few, whose i
led them to study, found it difficult to ga
from the want of libraries sufficiently large
circumstances, the establishment of a pub
was an important event. This was first
by Franklin, about the year 1731. Fif
subscribed forty shillings each, and agre
ten shillings annually. The number increa
in 1742, the company was incorporated by
of "The Library Company of Philadelp
veral other companies were formed in th
imitation of it. These were all at length u
the Library Company of Philadelphia, whic
ceived a considerable accession of books and
It now contains about eight thousand volu
subjects, a philosophical apparatus, and a w
collection of natural and artificial curiosit
its support, the Company now possessed la
perty of considerable value. They have la
an elegant house in Fifth-street, in the front
will be erected a marble statue of their foun
Jamin Franklin.

This institution was greatly encouraged
friends of literature in America and in Eu

uniformly refused to accept of any compensation. During this time, he communicated to the directors every information relative to improvements and discoveries in the arts, agriculture, and philosophy.

The beneficial influence of this institution was soon evident. The terms of subscription to it were so moderate, that it was accessible to every one. Its advantages were not confined to the opulent. The citizens in the middle and lower walks of life were equally partakers of them. Hence a degree of information was extended amongst all classes of people. The example was soon followed. Libraries were established in various places, and they are now become very numerous in the United States, and particularly in Pennsylvania. It is to be hoped that they will be still more widely extended, and that information will be every where increased. This will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A nation of well-informed men, who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them, cannot be enslaved. It is in the regions of ignorance that tyranny reigns. It flies before the light of science. Let the citizens of America, then, encourage institutions calculated to diffuse knowledge amongst people; and amongst these, public libraries are not the least important.

In 1732, Franklin began to publish Poor Richard's Almanac. This was remarkable for the numerous and valuable concise maxims which it contained, all tending to exhort to industry and frugality. It was continued for many years. In the almanac for the last year, all the maxims were collected in an address to the reader, entitled, "The Way to Wealth." This has been translated into various languages, and inserted in different publications. It has also been printed on a large sheet, and may be seen framed in many houses in this city. This address contains, perhaps, the best practical system of economy that ever has appeared. It is written in a manner intelligible to every one, and which cannot fail of convincing every reader of the justice and propriety of the remarks and advice which it contains. The demand for this almanac was so great, that ten thousand

political career. In the year 1736, he was appointed clerk to the general assembly of Pennsylvania; and was re-elected by succeeding assemblies for several years, until he was chosen a representative for the city of Philadelphia.

Bradford was possessed of some advantages over Franklin, by being post-master, thereby having an opportunity of circulating his paper more extensively, and thus rendering it a better vehicle for advertisements, &c. Franklin, in his turn, enjoyed these advantages, by being appointed post-master of Philadelphia, in 1737. Bradford, while in office, had acted ungenerously toward Franklin, preventing, as much as possible, the circulation of his paper. He had now an opportunity of retaliating; but his nobleness of soul prevented him from making use of it.

The police of Philadelphia had early appointed watchmen, whose duty it was to guard the citizens against the midnight robber, and to give an immediate alarm in case of fire. This duty is, perhaps, one of the most important that can be committed to any set of men. The regulations, however, were not sufficiently strict. Franklin saw the dangers arising from this cause, and suggested an alteration, so as to oblige the guardians of the night to be more watchful and

pany in this city. This example was soon followed by others; and there are now numerous fire companies in the city and liberties. To these may be attributed, in a great degree, the activity in extinguishing fires, for which the citizens of Philadelphia are distinguished, and the inconsiderable damage which this city has sustained from this cause. Some time after, Franklin suggested the plan of an association for insuring houses from losses by fire, which was adopted, and the association continues to this day. The advantages experienced from it have been great.

From the first establishment of Pennsylvania, a spirit of dispute appears to have prevailed amongst its inhabitants. During the life-time of William Penn, the constitution had been three times altered. After this period, the history of Pennsylvania is little else than a recital of the quarrels between the proprietaries, or their governors, and the Assembly. The proprietaries contended for the right of exempting their lands from taxes; to which the Assembly would by no means consent. This subject of dispute interfered in almost every question, and prevented the most salutary laws from being enacted. This, at times, subjected the people to great inconveniences. In the year 1744, during a war between France and Great Britain, some French and Indians had made inroads upon the frontier inhabitants of the province, who were unprovided for such an attack. It became necessary that the citizens should arm for their defence. Governor Thomas recommended to the Assembly, who were then sitting, to pass a militia law. To this they would agree, only upon condition that he should give his assent to certain laws, which appeared to them calculated to promote the interests of the people. As he thought these laws would be injurious to the proprietaries, he refused his assent to them; and the Assembly broke up without passing a militia law. The situation of the province was, at this time, truly alarming; exposed to the continual inroad of an enemy, destitute of every means of defence. At this crisis, Franklin stepped forth, and proposed to a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, a plan of a voluntary association for the defence of the province.

gaged in a course of electrical experiments, with all the ardour and thirst for discovery which characterized the philosophers of that day. Of all the branches of experimental philosophy, electricity had been least explored. The attractive power of amber is mentioned by Theophrastus and Pliny, and from them, by later naturalists. In the year 1600, Gilbert, an English physician, enlarged, considerably, the catalogue of substances which have the property of attracting light bodies. Boyle, Otto Guericke, a burgomaster of Magdeburg, celebrated as the inventor of the air-pump, Dr. Wall, and Sir Isaac Newton, added some facts. Guericke first observed the repulsive power of electricity, and the light and noise produced by it. In 1709, Hawkesbee communicated some important observations and experiments to the world. For several years, electricity was entirely neglected, until Mr. Grey applied himself to it, in 1728, with great assiduity. He and his friend, Mr. Wheeler, made a great variety of experiments; in which they demonstrated, that electricity may be communicated from one body to another, even without being in contact, and in this way may be conducted to a great distance. Mr. Grey afterwards found, that, by suspending rods of iron or

and 1742, Desaguliers made a number of experiments, but added little of importance. He first used the terms *conductors* and *electrics per se*. In 1742, several ingenious Germans engaged in this subject; of these the principal were, professor Boze, of Wittemberg, professor Winkler, of Leipsic, Gordon, a Scotch Benedictine monk, professor of philosophy at Erfurt, and Dr. Ludolf, of Berlin. The result of their researches astonished the philosophers of Europe. Their apparatus was large, and by means of it they were enabled to collect large quantities of the electric fluid, and thus to produce phenomena which had been hitherto unobserved. They killed small birds, and set spirits on fire. Their experiments excited the curiosity of other philosophers. Collinson, about the year 1745, sent to the Library Company of Philadelphia, an account of these experiments, together with a tube, and directions how to use it. Franklin, with some of his friends, immediately engaged in a course of experiments; the result of which is well known. He was enabled to make a number of important discoveries, and to propose theories to account for various phenomena, which have been universally adopted, and which bid fair to endure for ages. His obser-

pores of the glass itself. After a pause he removed the coating, and found that upon a new coating, the shock might still be received the year 1749, he first suggested his idea of the phenomena of thundergusts, and of the borealis, upon electrical principles. He many particulars in which lightning and agree; and he adduces many facts, and from facts, in support of his positions. In year he conceived the astonishingly bold idea of ascertaining the truth of his doctri tually drawing down the lightning, by mean pointed iron rods raised into the region of t Even in this uncertain state, his passion to to mankind displays itself in a powerful ma mitting the identity of electricity and ligh knowing the power of points in repelling bodi with electricity, and in conducting their fi and imperceptibly, he suggested the idea houses, ships, &c. from being damaged by by erecting pointed rods, that should rise above the most elevated part, and descend into the ground or the water. The effect c concluded, would be either to prevent a str pelling the cloud beyond the striking dist

would, he conceived, impart to it a portion of their electricity, which would be rendered evident to the senses by sparks being emitted, when a key, the knuckle, or other conductor, was presented to it. Philadelphia at this time afforded no opportunity of trying an experiment of this kind. While Franklin was waiting for the erection of a spire, it occurred to him that he might have more ready access to the region of clouds by means of a common kite. He prepared one by fastening two cross sticks to a silk handkerchief, which would not suffer so much from the rain as paper. To the upright stick was affixed an iron point. The string was, as usual, of hemp, except the lower end, which was silk. Where the hempen string terminated, a key was fastened. With this apparatus, on the appearance of a thundergust approaching, he went out into the commons, accompanied by his son, to whom alone he communicated his intentions, well knowing the ridicule which, too generally for the interest of science, awaits unsuccessful experiments in philosophy. He placed himself under a shade, to avoid the rain—his kite was raised—a thunder-cloud passed over it—no sign of electricity appeared. He almost despaired of success, when, suddenly, he observed the loose fibres of his string to move towards an erect position. He now presented his knuckle to the key, and received a strong spark. How exquisite must his sensations have been at this moment! On this experiment depended the fate of his theory. If he succeeded, his name would rank high among those who had improved science; if he failed, he must inevitably be subjected to the derision of mankind, or, what is worse, their pity, as a well-meaning man, but a weak, silly projector. The anxiety with which he looked for the result of his experiment, may be easily conceived. Doubts and despair had begun to prevail, when the fact was ascertained in so clear a manner, that even the most incredulous could no longer withhold their assent. Repeated sparks were drawn from the key, a phial was charged, a shock given, and all the experiments made which are usually performed with electricity.

About a month before this period, some ingenious Frenchman had completed the discovery in the man-

Philadelphia, in America.
avidity, and soon translated into different la
A very incorrect French translation fell into th
of the celebrated Buffon, who, notwithstan
disadvantages under which the work labou
much pleased with it, and repeated the exp
with success. He prevailed on his friend, M
bard, to give his countrymen a more correct
tion of the works of the American electricia
contributed much towards spreading a know
Franklin's principles in France. The kin
XV. hearing of these experiments, expresse
to be a spectator of them. A course of exp
was given at the seat of the Duc D'Ayen, a
main, by M. de Lor. The applauses which
bestowed upon Franklin, excited in Buffon, D
and De Lor, an earnest desire of ascertaining
of his theory of thunderguet. Buffon erecte
paratus on the tower of Montbar, M. D'A
Mary-la-ville, and De Lor at his house in t
pade at Paris, some of the highest ground in
tal. D'Alibard's machine first showed sign
tricity. On the 10th of May, 1752, a thun
passed over it, in the absence of M. D'Alib
number of sparks were drawn from it by

discovery. Professor Richman bade fair to add much to the stock of knowledge on this subject, when an unfortunate flash from his conductor put a period to his existence. The friends of science will long remember with regret, the amiable martyr to electricity.

By these experiments Franklin's theory was established in the most convincing manner. When the truth of it could no longer be doubted, envy and vanity endeavoured to detract from its merit. That an American, an inhabitant of the obscure city of Philadelphia, the name of which was hardly known, should be able to make discoveries, and to frame theories, which had escaped the notice of the enlightened philosophers of Europe, was too mortifying to be admitted. He must certainly have taken the idea from some one else. An American, a being of an inferior order, make discoveries!—Impossible. It was said, that the Abbe Nollet, 1748, had suggested the idea of the similarity of lightning and electricity, in his *Lecons de Physique*. It is true that the Abbe mention[illegible]

May, 1753, but was not successful
June, a year after Franklin had completed
overy, and when it was known to all the phi
n Europe.

Besides these great principles, Franklin's
electricity contain a number of facts and hin
have contributed greatly towards reducing th
of knowledge to a science. His friend Mr.
ley communicated to him a discovery of the
kinds of electricity, excited by rubbing glass
phur. This, we have said, was first observ
du Faye; but it was for many years neglect
philosophers were disposed to account for th
mena, rather from a difference in the quanti
tricity collected, and even Du Faye himself
last to have adopted this doctrine. Frankl
entertained the same idea; but, upon rep
experiments, he perceived that Mr. Kinn
right! and that the *vitreous* and *resinous* ele
Du Faye were nothing more than the *posit*
gative states which he had before observed
the glass globe charged *positively*, or inc
quantity of electricity on the prime condu
the globe of sulphur diminished its natur
or charged *negatively*. These experiments

into the clouds, and not the clouds that strike int the earth." The letter containing these observation is dated in September, 1753; and yet the discovery o ascending thunder has been said to be of a modern date and has been attributed to the Abbé Bertholon, wh published his memoir on the subject in 1776.

Franklin's letters have been translated into mos of the European languages, and into Latin. In propor ion as they have become known, his principles hav been adopted. Some opposition was made to hi theories, particularly by the Abbé Nollet, who was however but feebly supported, while the first philoso phers in Europe stepped forth in defence of Frank lin's principles, amongst whom D'Alibard and Bec caria were the most distinguished. The oppositi has gradually ceased, and the Franklinian system i now universally adopted, where science flourishes.

The important practical use which Franklin mad of his discoveries, the securing of houses from injur

perature, and the room may be so ag
air may enter through cracks—the
which are colds, tooth-aches, &c.

Although philosophy was a pri
Franklin's pursuit for several years,
self not to this. In the year 1747, he
ber of the general assembly of Per
burgess for the city of Philadelphia.
subsisted at this time between the A
proprietaries; each contending for w
ed to be their just rights. Franklin
rights of man from his infancy, s
himself a steady opponent of the u
the proprietaries. He was soon loo
head of the opposition; and to him
buted many of the spirited replies of
the messages of the governors. His
body was very great. This arose no
rior powers of eloquence; he spoke
he never was known to make any
borate harrangue. His speeches oft
single sentence, of a well-told story, th
was obviously to the point. He nev
flowery field of oratory. His mann
mild. His style in speaking was,
writings, simple, unadorned, and ren
With this plain manner, and his pen
judgment, he was able to confound th

manently secure, which can only be done by makin
their value properly known; and this must depen
upon increasing and extending information to ever
class of men. We have already seen that he wa
the founder of the public library, which contribute
greatly towards improving the minds of the citizen
But this was not sufficient. The schools then sub
sisting were in general of little utility. The teacher
were men ill qualified for the important duty whic
they had undertaken; and, after all, nothing mor
could be obtained than the rudiments of a commo
English education. Franklin drew up a plan of a
academy, to be erected in the city of Philadelphia
suited to "the state of an infant country;" but i
this, as in all his plans, he confined not his views t
the present time only. He looked forward to the pe

... the students as, in some
their own children, treat them with fam
affection; and when they have behaved
through their studies, and are to enter
they shall zealously unite, and make all t
that can be made to promote and estab
whether in business, offices, marriages, or
thing for their advantage, in preference to
persons whatsoever, even of equal merit."

The constitution being signed and ma
with the names of the gentlemen propos
selves as trustees and founders, the desig
well approved of by the public-spirited c
Philadelphia, that the sum of eight hundre
per annum, for five years, was in the co
few weeks subscribed for carrying it in
tion; and in the beginning of January
(viz. 1750) three of the schools were opene
ly the Latin and Greek schools, the math
school, and the English school. In purs
an article in the original plan, a school
cating sixty boys and thirty girls (in th
since called the Charitable School) was
and, amidst all the difficulties with which
tees have struggled in respect to their e
...

Dr. Franklin; who, notwithstanding the multipli city of his other engagements and pursuits, at tha busy stage of his life, was a constant attendant a the monthly visitations and examinations of th schools, and made it his particular study, by mean of his extensive correspondence abroad, to advance the reputation of the seminary, and to draw stu dents and scholars to it from the different parts o America and the West Indies. Through the inter position of his benevolent and learned friend, Pete Collinson of London, upon the application of th trustees, a charter of incorporation, dated July 13, 1753, was obtained from the honourable proprietor of Pennsylvania, Thomas Penn, and Richard Penn Esqrs. accompanied with a liberal benefaction o five hundred pounds sterling; and Dr. Franklin now began in good earnest to please himself with the hopes of a speedy accomplishment of his ori ginal design, viz. the establishment of a perfect in

of the academy, and establishing that
the head of both, where he still cont
period of thirty-six years, to presid
guished reputation.

From these letters also, the state of
at that time will be seen.

" *Philad. Apr*

" Sir,

" I received your favour of the 11th
your new piece* on *Education*, which
fully peruse, and give you my sentimen
desire, by next post.

" I believe the young gentlemen, you
be entertained and instructed here, in
and philosophy, to satisfaction. Mr.
was educated at Glasgow) has been lo
to teach the latter, and Mr. Grew† the
think their pupils make great progress
has the care of the Latin and Greek sch
has now three good assistants,‖ he can
ford some hours every day for the instru
who are engaged in higher studies. T
ical school is pretty well furnished with

shortly be opened; so that neither books
uments will be wanting; and as we are de-
always to give good salaries, we have rea-
ieve we may have always an opportunity of
good masters; upon which, indeed, the suc-
e whole depends. We are obliged to you
tind offers in this respect, and when you are
England, we may occasionally make use of
idship and judgment.
suits your convenience to visit Philadelphia
u return to Europe, I shall be extremely
e and converse with you here, as well as to
d with you after your settlement in England;
quaintance and communication with men of
virtue, and public spirit, is one of my great
nents.
iot know whether you ever happened to see
roposals I made for erecting this academy.
em inclosed. They had (however impor-
desired success, being followed by a sub-
of four thousand pounds, towards carrying
execution. And as we are fond of receiv-
e, and are daily improving by experience, I
pes we shall, in a few years, see a *perfect*
n.

"I am, very respectfully, &c.
"B. FRANKLIN.

W. Smith, Long Island."

"*Philad. May*, 3. 1753.

Peters has just now been with me, and we
pared notes on your new piece. We find
the scheme of education, however excel-
what is, in our opinion very practicable.
difficulty will be to find the Aratus,* and
table persons, to carry it into execution:

---

me given to the principal or head of the ideal college, the
lestation in which hath nevertheless been nearly realised,
as a model, in the college and academy of Philadelphia,
her American seminaries for several years past.

praise, I ought to mention, that I wish omitted not only the quotation from the I which you are now justly dissatisfied with, t expressions of resentment against your adv in pages 65 and 79. In such cases, the not tory is obtained by neglect, and by shining o

"Mr. Allen has been out of town these t but before he went he directed me to proc six copies of your piece. Mr. Peters has t He proposed to have written to you; but on he expects so soon to have the pleasure of se here. He desires me to present his affection pliments to you, and to assure you, that yo very welcome to him. I shall only say, that depend on my doing all in my power to m visit to Philadelphia agreeable to you.

"I am, &c.

"*Mr. Smith.* "B. FRANE

"*Philad. Nov.* 27

"DEAR SIR,

"Having written you fully, *via* Bristol, I l little to add. Matters relating to the aca

Thus, unless the proprietors (of the province) shall think fit to put the finishing hand to our institution, it must, I fear, wait some few years longer before it can arrive at that state of perfection, which to me it seems now capable of; and all the pleasure I promised myself in seeing you settled among us, vanishes into smoke.

"But good Mr. Collinson writes me word, that no endeavours of his shall be wanting; and he hopes with the archbishop's assistance, to be able to prevail with our proprietors.* I pray God grant them success.

"My son presents his affectionate regards, with,

"Dear Sir, yours, &c.

"B. FRANKLIN.

"P. S. I have not been favoured with a line from you since your arrival in England."

"*Philad. April* 18, 1754.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have had but one letter from you since your arrival in England, which was but a short one, *viz* Boston, dated October 18th, acquainting me that you had written largely by Captain Davis.—Davis was lost, and with him your letters, to my great disappointment.—Mesnard and Gibbon have since arrived here, and I hear nothing from you. My comfort is, an imagination that you only omit writing because you are coming, and propose to tell me every thing *viva voce*. So not knowing whether this letter will reach you, and hoping either to see or hear from you by the Myrtilla, Captain Budden's ship, which is daily expected, I only add, that I am, with great esteem and affection,

"Yours, &c.

"*Mr. Smith.* "B. FRANKLIN."

---

* Upon the application of Archbishop Herring and P. Collinson, Esqr. at Dr. Franklin's request (aided by the letters of Mr Allen and Mr Peters,) the honourable Thomas Penn, Esqr. subscribed an annual sum, and afterwards gave at least 5000l. to the founding or establishing the college upon the present foundation.

fecting the institution,
the large and liberal foundation on ...
stands; for which purpose they obtained
tional charter, dated May 27th, 1755.

Thus far we thought it proper to ex
view Dr. Franklin's services in the fou
establishment of this seminary. He soo
embarked for England, in the public se
country; and having been generally
abroad, in the like service, for the grea
the remainder of his life (as will appea
sequent account of the same) he had l
portunities of taking any further active
affairs of the seminary, until his final r
year 1785, when he found its charters
his ancient colleagues, the original found
of their trust by an act of the legislat
though his own name had been inserte
new trustees, yet he declined to take h
them, or any concern in the management
fairs, till the institution was restored
original owners. He then assemble
leagues at his own house, and being ch
sident, all their future meetings, were
... till within a few months of
... their desire.

...ons were attended
...derable sums were subscribed; b
still short of what was necessary. F
made another exertion. He applied to th
nnd, after some opposition, obtained le
in a bill, specifying, that as soon as tv
pounds were subscribed, the same sum
drawn from the treasury by the speaker
to be applied to the purposes of the institu
opposition, as the sum was granted upon
gency, which they supposed would never t
were silent, and the bill passed. The frie
plan now redoubled their efforts, to obtain
sions to the amount stated in the bill, and v
successful. This was the foundation of t
sylvania Hospital, which, with the BetteringH
Dispensary, bears ample testimony of the h
of the citizens of Philadelphia.

Dr. Franklin had conducted himself so we
office of post-master, and had shown himself
well acquainted with the business of that depe
that it was thought expedient to raise him to
dignified station. In 1753 he was appointed
post-master general for the British colonie
profits arising from the postage of le...
considerable part of ...

lish this, in the year 1754, commissioners from New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, met at Albany Dr. Franklin attended here, as a commissioner from Pennsylvania, and produced a plan, which from the place of meeting, has been usually termed, "The Albany Plan of Union!" This proposed, that application should be made for an act of parliament, to establish in the colonies a general government, to be administered by a president-general, appointed by the crown, and by a grand council, consisting of members, chosen by the representatives of the different colonies; their number to be in direct proportion to the sums paid by each colony into the general treasury, with this restriction, that no colony should have more than seven, nor less than two representatives. The whole executive authority was committed to the president-general. The power of legislation was lodged in the grand council and the president-general jointly; his consent being made necessary to passing a bill into a law. The power vested in the president and council was, to declare war and peace, and to conclude treaties with the Indian nations; to regulate trade with, and to make purchases of vacant lands from them, either in the name of the

officers of the land or sea service were to be nominated by the president-general, and approved of by the general council; civil officers were to be nominated by the council, and approved of by the president. Such are the outlines of the plan proposed, for the consideration of the congress, by Dr. Franklin. After several days discussion, it was unanimously agreed to by the commissioners, a copy transmitted to each assembly, and one to the king's council. The fate of it was singular. It was disapproved of by the ministry of Great Britain, because it gave too much power to the representatives of the people; and it was rejected by every assembly, as giving to the president-general, the representative of the crown, an influence greater than appeared to them proper, in a plan of government intended for freemen. Perhaps this rejection, on both sides, is the strongest proof that could be adduced of the excellence of it, as suited to the situation of America and Great Britain at that time. It appears to have steered exactly in the middle, between the opposite interests of both.

Whether the adoption of this plan would have prevented the separation of America from Great Britain, is a question which might afford much room for speculation. It may be said, that, by enabling the colonies to defend themselves, it would have removed the pretext upon which the stamp-act, tea-act, and other acts of the British parliament, were passed; which excited a spirit of opposition, and laid the foundation for the separation of the two countries. But, on the other hand, it must be admitted, that the restriction laid by Great Britain upon our commerce, obliging us to sell our produce to her citizens only, and to take from them various articles, of which, as our manufacturers were discouraged, we stood in need, at a price greater than that for which they could have been obtained from other nations, must inevitably produce dissatisfaction, even though no duties were imposed by the parliament; a circumstance which might still have taken place. Besides, as the president-general was to be appointed by the crown, he must, of necessity, be devoted to its views, and would, therefore, refuse to assent to any laws, how-

tween the people of America and the crown
Britain: while the colonies continued w
would be obliged to submit, and as soon a
quired strength, they would become more
their demands, until, at length, they would
the yoke, and declare themselves independ

Whilst the French were in possession of
their trade with the natives extended very
to the back of the British settlements. T
disposed, from time to time, to establish po
the territory, which the English claimed as t
Independent of the injury to the fur trade, w
considerable, the colonies suffered this furth
venience, that the Indians were frequently i
to commit depredations on their frontiers
year 1753, encroachments were made upon
daries of Virginia. Remonstrances had no e
the ensuing year, a body of men were sent
the command of Mr. Washington, who, thou
young man, had by his conduct in the prece
shown himself worthy of such an importan
Whilst marching to take possession of the p
junction of the Allegany and Monongahel
informed that the French had already erec

ty occurred, which had nearly prevented the expe
dition. This was the want of waggons. Franklin
now stepped forward, and with the assistance of hi
son, in a little time procured a hundred and fifty
Braddock unfortunately fell into an ambuscade, and
perished, with a number of his men. Washington
who had accompanied him as an aid-de-camp, and
had warned him, in vain of his danger, now display
ed great military talents in affecting a retreat of the
remains of the army, and in forming a junction with
the rear, under colonel Dunbar, upon whom the
chief command now devolved. With some difficulty
they brought their little body to a place of safety, but
they found it necessary to destroy their waggons and
baggage, to prevent them from falling into the hands
of the enemy. For the waggons which he had fur

presence was necessary. Here he buil
placed the garrison in such a posture of
would enable them to withstand the inros
he inhabitants had been previously ex
remained here for some time, in order th
pletely to discharge the trust committ
Some business of importance at length
presence necessary in the Assembly, and
to Philadelphia.

The defence of her colonies was a gr
to Great Britain. The most effectual mo
ing this was, to put arms into the hands
bitants, and to teach them their use.
wished not that the Americans should
quainted with their own strength. She
hensive, that, as soon as this period a
would no longer submit to that monop
trade, which to them was highly injuri
tremely advantageous to the mother
comparison with the profits of this, th
maintaining armies and fleets to defen
trifling. She fought to keep them dep
her for protection; the best plan which
vised for retaining them in peaceable
The least appearance of a military spiri

...mony at length dete
...e the mother-country for relief. A
addressed to the king, in council, stat
veniences under which the inhabita
from the attention of the proprietaries to
nterests, to the neglect of the general w
community, and praying for redress. F
appointed to present this address, as a
province of Pennsylvania, and departed
rica in June, 1757. In conformity to the i
which he had received from the legislatu
a conference with the proprietaries who th
in England, and endeavoured to prevail t
to give up the long-contested point. Finding
would hearken to no terms of accommodatio
his petition before the council. During this t
ernor Denny assented to a law imposing a tax,
no discrimination was made in favour of th
of the Penn family. They, alarmed at
telligence, and Franklin's exertions, used the
endeavours to prevent the royal sanction bei
to this law, which they represented as highly
ous, designed to throw the burden of suppo
vernment upon them, and calculated to pro
most ruinous consequences to the
ity. The cause

Franklin remained at the court of Gre
agent for the province of Pennsylvania.
sive knowledge which he possessed of t
the colonies, and the regard which he s
fested for their interests, occasioned his
to the same office by the colonies of M
Maryland, and Georgia. His conduct,
tion was such as rendered him still mo
countrymen.

He had now an opportunity of indulg
ciety of those friends, whom his merits
him while at a distance. The regard w
entertained for him was rather increase
nal acquaintance. The opposition whi
made to his dicoveries in philosophy gr
ed, and the rewards of literary merit we
ly conferred upon him. The Royal So
don, which had at first refused his perf
mission into its transactions, now thou
nour to rank him amongst its fellows
scieties of Europe were equally ambitio
him a member. The university of St.
Scotland conferred upon him the degree
Laws. Its example was followed by
ties of Edinburgh and Oxford. His ser

country was highly advantageous to France, it was a grievous inconvenience to the inhabitants of the British colonies. The Indians were almost generally desirous to cultivate the friendship of the French, by whom they were abundantly supplied with arms and ammunition. Whenever a war happened, the Indians were ready to fall upon the frontiers: this they frequently did, even when Great Britain and France were at peace. From these considerations, it appeared to be the interest of Great Britain to gain the possession of Canada. But the importance of such an acquisition was not well understood in England. Franklin about this time published his Canada pamphlet, in which he, in a very forcible manner, pointed out the advantages which would result from the conquest of this province.

An expedition against it was planned, and the command given to General Wolfe. His success is well known. At the treaty in 1762, France ceded Canada to Great Britain, and by her cession of Louisiana, at the same time, relinquished all her possessions on the continent of America.

Although Dr. Franklin was now principally occupied with political pursuits, he found time for philosophical studies. He extended his electrical researches, and made a variety of experiments, particularly on the tourmalin. The singular properties which this stone possesses, of being electrified on one side positively, and on the other negatively, by heat alone, without friction, had been but lately observed.

Some experiments on the cold produced by evaporation, made by Dr. Cullen, had been communicated to Dr. Franklin, by Professor Simpson, of Glasgow. These he repeated, and found, that, by the evaporation of either in the exhausted receiver of an air-pump, so great a degree of cold was produced in a summer's day, that water was converted into ice. This discovery he applied to the solution of a number of phenomena, particularly a singular fact, which philosophers had endeavoured in vain to account for, viz. that the temperature of the human body, when in health, never exceeds 96 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, although the atmosphere which sur-

storms begin in the south-west,
from actual observations, that a north-east wi
which extended a considerable distance, commen
at Philadelphia nearly four hours before it was
at Boston.—He endeavoured to account for this
supposing that, from heat, some rarefraction t
place about the gulph of Mexico, that the air fur
north being cooler rushes in, and is succeeded by
cooler and denser air still farther north, and that
a continued current is at length produced.

The tone produced by rubbing the brim of a dr
ing-glass with a wet finger had been generally kn
A Mr. Puckeridge, an Irishman, by placing on a
a number of glasses of different sizes, and t
them by partly filling them with water, endeav
to form an instrument capable of playing tunes
was prevented, by an untimely end, from br
his invention to any degree of perfection. Af
death some improvements were made upon hi
The sweetness of the tones induced Dr Fran
make a variety of experiments; and he at
formed the elegant instrument, which he ha
the *Armonica*.

In the summer of 1762, he returned to A
passage he observed the singular ef

..., 1763, a circumstan
great alarm in the province took pl
of Indians had resided in the count
and conducted themselves uniformly
the white inhabitants. Repeated d
the frontiers had exasperated the inha
a degree, that they determined on
every Indian. A number of persons,
of about 120, principally inhabitants o
Peckstang or Paxton township, in the co
assembled; and, mounted on horsebac
to the settlement of these harmless an
Indians, whose number had now been
about twenty. The Indians received in
the attack which was intended against
disbelieved it. Considering the white pe
friends, they apprehended no danger fr
When the party arrived at the Indian
they found only some women and chil
few old men, the rest being absent at w
murdered all whom they found, and am
the chief Shaheas, who had been always
ed for his friendship to the whites. T
deed excited much indignation in the w
part of the community.

The remainder

rioters came to Germantown. The Gov
for safety to the house of Dr. Franklin,
some others, advanced to meet the Paxtor
they were called, and had influence enou
vail upon them to relinquish their undertal
return to their homes.

The disputes between the proprietarie
Assembly, which, for a time had subsi
again revived. The proprietaries were d
with the concessions made in favour of t
and made great struggles to recover the p
exempting their estates from taxation, w
had been induced to give up.

In 1763, the Assembly passed a militi
which the Governor refused to give his asse
the Assembly would agree to certain am
which he proposed. These consisted in i
the fines; and in some cases, substituting
fines. He wished too, that the officers
appointed altogether by himself, and not
ated by the people, as the bill had proposed
amendments the Assembly considered as
ent with the spirit of liberty. They w
adopt them; the Governor was obstinate
bill was lost.

Mr. Dickenson, on the subject, was published, wit
a preface by Dr. Smith, in which great pains wer
taken to shew the impropriety and impolicy of thi
proceeding. A speech of Mr. Galloway, in reply t
Mr. Dickenson, was published, accompanied with
preface by Dr. Franklin; in which he ably oppose
the principles laid down in the preface to Mr. Dick
enson's speech. This application to the throne pro
duced no effect. The proprietary government wa
still continued.

At the election for a new Assembly, in the fall o
1764, the friends of the proprietaries made great ex
ertions to exclude those of the adverse party; an
they obtained a small majority in the city of Phila
delphia. Franklin now lost his seat in the house
which he had held for fourteen years. On the meet

nals has, in impeding the progress of boa
his return to England, he was led to make
of experiments, all of which tended to c
observation. These, with an explanation
nomenon, he communicated in a letter to
Sir John Pringle, which is among his
phical pieces.

In the following year he travelled int
where he met with a no less favorable rece
he had experienced in Germany. He was
ed to a number of literary characters,
king, Louis XV.

Several letters written by Hutchinson, O
others, to persons in eminent stations in
tain, came into the hands of Dr. Franklin
contained the most violent invectives a
leading characters of the state of Massachu
and strenuously advised the prosecution o
measures, to compel the people to obedie
measures of the ministry. These he tran
the legislature, by whom they were publis
tested copies of them were sent to Gre
with an address, praying the king to disch
office persons who had rendered themselves
[illegible]

... be scandalous and
... prayer of it refused.

Although the parliament of Great
ealed the stamp-act, it was only upo
f expediency. They still insisted u
o tax the colonies; and, at the same ti
act was repealed, an act was passed,
right of parliament to bind the colonie
whatsoever. This language was used
most strenuous opposers of the stam
amongst others, by Mr. Pitt. This righ
recognized by the colonists; but as the
themselves that it would not be exercised,
not very active in remonstrating against it.
pretended right been suffered to remain do
colonists would cheerfully have furnished t
of supplies, in the mode to which they hac
customed; that is, by the acts of their own a
in consequence of requisitions from the Se
State. If this practice had been pursued,
the disposition of the colonies towards the
country, that, notwithstanding the disadvar
der which they laboured, from restraints u
trade, calculated solely for the benefit of
mercial and manufacturing
a separation of

spirit of opposition. Instead of [illegible] lay this by a more lenient conduct. The ministry see ed resolutely bent on reducing the colonies to t most slavish obedience to their decrees. But t only tended to aggravate. Vain were all the effo made use of to prevail upon them to lay aside th designs, to convince them of the impossibility of c rying them into effect, and of the mischievous con quences which must ensue from a continuance the attempt. They persevered with a degree of flexibility scarcely parallelled.

The advantages which Great Britain derived fr her colonies was so great, that nothing but a deg of infatuation, little short of madness, could hi produced a continuance of measures calculatec keep up a spirit of uneasiness, which might occas the slightest wish for a separation. When we c sider the great improvements in the science of vernment, the general diffusion of the principle liberty amongst the people of Europe, the effects wh these have already produced in France, and the j bable consequences which will result from t elsewhere, all of which are the offspring of the Am can revolution, it cannot but appear strange, [illegible] of so great moment to the happiness of m

listened not to his advice. They blindly persevere
in their own schemes, and left to the colonists no al
ternative, but opposition, or unconditional submis
sion. The latter accorded not with the principles o
freedom, which they had been taught to revere. T
the former they were compelled, though reluctantly
to have recourse.

Dr. Franklin, finding all efforts to restore harmo
ny between Great Britain and her colonies useles
eturned to America in the year 1775; just after th
commencement of hostilities. The day after his re
turn he was elected by the legislature of Pennsylvani
a delegate to congress. Not long after his election
committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. Lynch
Mr. Harrison, and himself, to visit the camp at Cam
bridge, and, in conjunction with the commander-in

had experienced ...
In this question, Dr. Franklin was decidedly
vour of the measure proposed, and had great
ence in bringing others over to his sentiments.

The public mind had been already prepar
this event, by Mr. Paine's celebrated pamphlet,
mon Sense. There is good reason to believe th
Franklin had no inconsiderable share, at lea
furnishing materials for this work.

In the convention that assembled at Philade
in 1776, for the purpose of establishing a new
of government for the state of Pennsylvania
Franklin was chosen president. The late cor
tion of this state, which was the result of thei
berations, may be considered as a digest of his
ciples of government. The single legislature
the plural executive, seem to have been his fav
tenets.

In the latter end of 1776, Dr. Franklin w
pointed to assist at the negociation which ha
set on foot by Silas Deane, at the court of F
A conviction of the advantages of a commer
tercourse with America, and a desire of wea
the British empire by dismembering it, first i
the French court to listen to proposals of an al
... to the m

was held in the highest estimation. He was receiv ed with the greatest marks of respect by all the lite rary characters; and this respect was extende amongst all classes of men. His personal influenc was hence very considerable. To the effects of thi were added those of various performances which h published, tending to establish the credit and charac ter of the United States. To his exertions in thi way may, in no small degree, be ascribed the succes of the loans negociated in Holland and France, whic greatly contributed to bringing the war to a happ conclusion.

The repeated ill-success of their arms, and mor particularly the capture of Cornwallis and his army at length convinced the British nation of the impos sibility of reducing the Americans to subjection. Th

...served, they determined that it was a mere tri
tended to impose upon the ignorant and cred
Mesmer was thus interrupted in his career to
and fame, and a most insolent attempt to i
upon the human understanding baffled.

The important ends of Dr. Franklin's missi
ing completed by the establishment of Am
Independence, and the infirmities of age and d
coming upon him, he became desirous of ret
to his native country. Upon application to co
to be recalled, Mr. Jefferson was appointed t
ceed him, in 1785. Some time in September
same year, Dr. Franklin arrived in Philadelphia
was shortly after chosen a member of the su
executive council for the city, and soon afte
elected president of the same.

When a convention was called to meet in Phil
phia, in 1787, for the purpose of giving more e
to the government of the union, by revising
amending the articles of confederation, Dr. Fra
was appointed a delegate from the state of Pen
vania. He signed the constitution which they
posed for the union, and gave it the most uneq
cal marks of his approbation.

A society for political inquiries of which

Council-chan
... retired wholly from public life.

His constitution had been a remarkab
He had been little subject to disease, e
tack of the gout occasionally, until ab
1781, when he was first attacked with s
the calculous complaint, which continue
life. During the intervals of pain from th
disease, he spent many cheerful hours, co
the most agreeable and instructive manne
culties were entirely unimpaired, even to t
his death.

His name as president of the abolition so
signed to the memorial presented to the ho
presentatives of the United States, on the t
February, 1789, praying them to exert the fi
of power vested in them by the constitutio
couraging the traffic of the human species.
his last public act.—In the debates to which
morial gave rise, several attempts were mad
tify the trade. In the Federal Gazette of Mar
there appeared an essay, signed Historicus,
by Dr. Franklin, in which he communicated a
said to have been delivered in the Divan of
in 1687, in opposition to the prayer of the pe
a set called *Erika*, or

minted his existence. The following acc
last illness was written by his friend and
Dr. Jones.

"The stone, with which he had been
several years, had for the last twelve mo
id him chiefly to his bed; and, during
painful paroxysms, he was obliged to take
of laudanum to mitigate his tortures—
'ntervals of pain, he not only amused h
reading and conversing cheerfully with
and a few friends who visited him, bu
employed in doing business of a public
private nature, with various persons wh
him for that purpose; and in every instan
ed, not only that readiness and dispositi
good, which was the distinguished chara
his life, but the fullest and clearest posse
uncommon mental abilities; and not u
indulged himself in those *jeux d'esprit* an
ing anecdotes, which were the delight
heard him.

"About sixteen days before his deat
seised with a feverish indisposition, w
particular symptoms attending it, till t
fourth day, when he complained of a

among men—and made no doubt but his present af
flictions were kindly intended to wean him from
world, in which he was no longe fit to act the par
assigned him. In this frame of body and mind h
continued till five days before his death, when hi
pain and difficulty of breathing entirely left him, an
his family were flattering themselves with the hope
of his recovery, when an imposthumation, which ha
formed itself in his lungs, suddenly burst, and his
charged a great quantity of matter, which he con
tinued to throw up, while he had sufficient strengt
to do it; but, as that failed, the organs of respiratio
became gradually oppressed—a calm lethargic stat
succeeded—and, on the 17th of April, 1790, abou
eleven o'clock at night, he quietly expired, closing
long and useful life of eighty-four years and thre

EXTRACTS

FROM THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

DR. FRANKLIN.

With regard to my books, those I had i
and those I left in Philadelphia, being now
together here, and a catalogue made of
my intention to dispose of the same as foll

My "History of the Academy of Sci
sixty or seventy volumes quarto, I give to
sophical society of Philadelphia, of which
honour to be president. My collection i
"Les Arts et les Metiers," I give to the
philosophical society, established in New
of which I am a member. My quarto edi
same, "Arts et Metiers," I give to the li
pany of Philadelphia. Such and so ma
books as I shall mark, in the said catalogu
name of my grandson, Benjamin Franklin

I was born in Boston, in New England, and ow my first instructions in literature to the free grammar schools established there. I therefore give one hundred pounds sterling to my executors, to be by them the survivors or survior of them, paid over to the managers or directors of the free-schools in my native town of Boston, to be by them, or the person or persons, who shall have the superintendence and management of the said schools, put out to interest, and so continued at interest forever; which interest annually shall be laid out in silver medals, and given as honorary rewards annually by the directors of the said free schools, for the encouragement of scholarship in the said schools, belonging to the said town in such manner as to the discretion of the select men of the said town shall seem meet.

Out of the salary that may remain due to me, as president of the state, I give the sum of two thousand pounds to my executors, to be by them, the survivors

managers of the ...
the amount, or pay the balance, ...
me.

I request my freinds, Henry Hill, Es
Esq. Francis Hopkinson, and Mr. Edw
of Bonfield, in Philadelphia county, to l
tors of this my last will and testament,
nominate and appoint them for that pur

I would have my body buried with as
or ceremony as may be.

PHILADELPHIA,
July, 17, 1788.

CODICIL.

I, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, in the forego
last will and testament, having further
same, do think proper to make and
lowing codicil, or addition thereto:

It having long been a fixed and po
wine, that in a democratical state the
offices of profit, for the reason I had
cle of my drawing in our constitutio
tention, when I accepted the office
devote the appointed salary to som
already, before I ...

certificates I have for what remains due to me of tha salary, be sold towards raising the sum of two thou sand pounds sterling, to be disposed of as I am now about to order.

It has been an opinion, that he who receives an estate from his ancestors, is under some obligation to transmit the same to posterity. This obligation lies not on me, who never inherited a shilling from any ancestor or relation. I shall, however, if it is not diminished by some accident before my death leave a considerable estate among my descendants and relations. The above observation is made merely as some apology to my family, for my making bequests that do not appear to have any immediate relation to their advantage.

I was born in Boston, New England, and owe my first instructions in literature to the free grammar schools established there. I have therefore considered those schools in my will.

But I am also under obligations to the state o

artificers, under the age of twenty-five yea
served an apprenticeship in the said town,
fully fulfilled the duties required in their i
so as to obtain a good moral character fr
two respectable citizens, who are willing
sureties in a bond, with the applicants,
payment of the money so lent, with intere
ing to the terms herein after prescribed;
bonds are to be taken for Spanish mille
or the value thereof in current gold coir
managers shall keep a bound book, or boo
in shall be entered the names of those wh
ply for, and receive the benefit of this i
and of their sureties, together with the
the dates, and other necessary and prope
respecting the business and concerns of t
tion: and as these loans are intended to as
married artificers, in setting up their busi
are to be proportioned by the discretion of
agers, so as not to exceed sixty pounds sterl
person, nor to be less than fifteen pounds.

And if the number of appliers so entitl
be s large as that the sum will not suffic
to every one some assistance, these aids r
form be small at first, but as the capital is

aging this institution gratis; it is hoped, that no pa
of the money will at any time lie dead, or be diver
ed to other purposes, but be continually augmentin
by the interest, in which case there may in time b
more than the occasion in Boston may require: an
then some may be spared to the neighbouring c
other towns in the said state of Massachusetts, whic
may desire to have it, such towns engaging to pa
punctually the interest, and the proportions of th
principal annually to the inhabitants of the town c
Bostor.. If this plan is executed, and succeeds, a
projected, without interruption for one hundred year
the sum will be then one hundred and thirty-on
thousand pounds; of which I would have the mana
gers of the donation to the town of Boston then la
out, at their discretion, one hundred thousand pound
in public works which may be judged of most genera
utility to the inhabitants: such as fortification
bridges, aqueducts, public buildings, baths, pave
ments, or whatever may make living in the town mo

worse, and in time be unfit for use, as I find ha
pened in all old cities; I recommend, that,
end of the first hundred years, if not done befo
corporation of the city employ a part of the h
thousand pounds in bringing by pipes the w
the Wissahicon-creek into the town, so as to
the inhabitants, which I apprehend may be
without great difficulty, the level of that creek
much above that of the city, and may be made
by a dam. I also recommend making the S
kill completely navigable. At the end of the
hundred years, I would have the disposition
four millions and sixty-one thousand pounds d
between the inhabitants of the city of Philad
and the government of Pennsylvania, in the
manner as herein directed with respect to that
inhabitants of Boston and the government of
sachusetts. It is my desire that this insti
should take place, and begin to operate with
year after my decease; for which purpose due
should be publicly given, previous to the expi
of that year, that those for whose benefit this
blishment is intended may make their respecti
plications: and I hereby direct my executor
survivors and survivor of them, within six m

facts proposed; I hope, however, that if the inhabi
tants of the two cities should not think fit to under
take the execution, they will at least accept the offe
of these donations, as a mark of my good will, token
of my gratitude, and testimony of my desire to be
useful to them even after my departure. I wish, in
deed that they may both undertake to endeavour the
execution of my project, because I think, that, though
unforeseen difficulties may arise, expedients will be
found to remove them, and the scheme be found
practicable. If one of them accepts the money with
the conditions, and the other refuses, my will then is
that both sums be given to the inhabitants of the city
accepting; the whole to be applied to the same pur
poses, and under the same regulations directed for
the separate parts; and if both refuse, the money
remains of course in the mass of my estate, and it is
to be disposed of therewith, according to my will
made the seventeenth day of July, 1788.

ON EARLY MARRIAGES.

To John Alleyn, Esq.

DEAR JACK,

You desire, you say, my impartial thoughts
subject of an early marriage, by way of an
the numberless objections that have been n
numerous persons to your own. You may ren
when you consulted me on the occasion, that I
youth on both sides to be no objection. Indee
the marriages that have fallen under my obse
I am rather inclined to think, that early one
the best chance of happiness. The temper an
of the young are not yet become so stiff and
plying, as when more advanced in life; th
more easily to each other, and hence, many o
of disgust are removed. And if youth has les
prudence which is necessary to manage a far
the parents and elder friends of young man
sons are generally at hand to afford their
which amply supplies that defect; and, by ea
[illegible] formed to regular ar

... those whose case ...
... America, marriages are genera
ing of life; our children are therefor
settled in the world by noon; and tha
being done, we have an afternoon
cheerful leisure to ourselves, such a
present enjoys. By these early mar
blssed with more children; and fr
among us, founded by nature, of every
ling and nursing her own child, more
raised. Thence the swift progress o
among us, unparalleled in Europe. I
glad you are married, and congratula
cordially upon it. You are now in th
coming a useful citizen; and you ha
the unnatural state of celibacy for life—
many here, who never intended it, but who
long postponed the change of their condi
at length, that it is too late to think of it,
all their lives in a situation that greatly
man's value. An odd volume of a set
bears not the value of its proportion to the
think you of the odd half of a pair of s
cant well cut any thing; it may possib
scrape a trencher.

Pray make ...

ON THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER,

MR. JOHN FRANKLIN.

TO MISS HUBBARD.

I CONDOLE with you. We have lost a mo and valuable relation. But it is the will of G nature, that these mortal bodies be laid aside, the soul is to enter into real life. This is rat embryo state, a preparation for living. A ma completely born until he be dead. Why then we grieve that a new child is born among the i tals, a new member added to their happy so We are spirits. That bodies should be lent us, while they can afford us pleasure, assist us in a ing knowledge, or doing good to our fellow-crea is a kind and benevolent act of God. Whe become unfit for these purposes, and afford u instead of pleasure, instead of an aid b'com incumbrance, and answer none of the intentio which they were given, it is equally kind and volent that a way is provided by which we m rid of them. Death is that way

know not how soon we may again have occasion for all of them.

With great and sincere esteem,
I have the honour to be,
Rev. Sir,
Your most obedient and
Most humble servant,
B. FRANKLIN.

Passy, May 12th, 1784.

THE WHISTLE

A True Story—Written to his Nephew.

When I was a child, at seven years old, my friends, on a holiday, filled my pockets with coppers. I went directly to a shop where they sold toys for children; and, being charmed with the sound of a *whistle*, that I met by the way in the hands of another boy, I voluntarily offered him all my money for one. I then came home, and went whistling all over the house, much pleased with my *whistle*, but disturbing all the family. My brothers, and sisters, and cousins, understanding the bargain I had made, told me I had given four times as much for it as it was worth. This put me in mind what good things I might have bought with the rest of the money; and they laughed at me so much for my folly, that I cried with vexation; and the reflection gave me more chagrin than the *whistle* gave me pleasure.

This, however, was afterwards of use to me, the impression continuing on my mind; so that often when I was tempted to buy some unnecessary thing I said to myself, *Don't give too much for the whistle*; and so I saved my money.

As I grew up, came into the world, and observed the actions of men, I thought I met with many, very many, who *gave too much for their whistle*.

When I saw any one too ambitious of court favours, sacrificing his time in attendance on levees, his repose, his liberty, his virtue, and perhaps his

others, all the esteem of his fellow-c
joys of benevolent friendship, for t
mulating wealth; *Poor man*, says I
pay too much for your whistle.

When I meet a man of pleasure,
laudable improvement of the mind,
to mere corporeal sensations; *Mista*
you are providing pain for yourself
sure: you give too much for your w

If I see one fond of fine clothes, fi
equipages, all above his fortune, f
tracts debts, and ends his career
says I, *he has paid dear, very dear,*

When I see a beautiful sweet ten
ried to an ill-natured brute of a h
pity it is, says I, *that she has pai*
whistle.

In short, I conceived that great
ries of mankind were brought upon
estimates they had made of the val
by their giving too much for their w

A PETITION.

To those who have the Superi

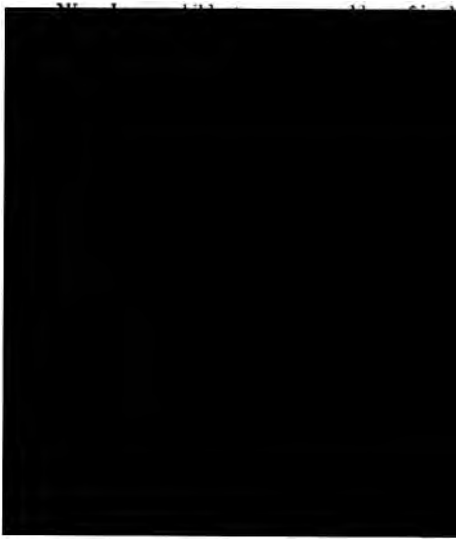
know not how soon we may again have occasion fo
all of them.

With great and sincere esteem,
I have the honour to be,
Rev. Sir,
Your most obedient and
Most humble servant,
B. FRANKLIN.

Passy, May 12th, 1784.

THE WHISTLE

A True Story—Written to his Nephew.



persons, and events; and the effect of those d
views upon their own minds.

In whatever situation men can be placed, th
find conveniences and inconveniences: in wl
company, they may find persons and conversatic
or less pleasing: at whatever table, they may me
meats and drinks of better and worse taste, dis
ter and worse dressed: in whatever climate, th
find good and bad weather: under whatever
ment, they may find good and bad laws, a
and bad administration of those laws: in w
poem, or work of genius, they may see fa
beauties: in almost every face, and every
they may discover fine features and defects, g
bad qualites.

Under these circumstances, the two sorta
ple above mentioned fix their attention; th
are disposed to be happy, on the conveni
things, the pleasant parts of conversation, t
dressed dishes, the goodness of the wines,
weather, &c. and enjoy all with cheerfulness
who are to be unhappy, think and speak on
contrarieties. Hence they are continually
tented themselves, and, by their remarks,
pleasures of society; offend personally many
and make themselves every where disagree
This turn of mind was founded in nature,

other, than my sister and myself, were it not for th
partiality of our parents, who made the most injur
ous distinctions between us. From my infancy,
have been led to consider my sister as a being of
more elevated rank. I was suffered to grow up wit
out the least instruction, while nothing was spare
in her education. She had masters to teach he
writing, drawing, music, and other accomplishments
but if, by chance, I touched a pencil, a pen, or
needle, I was bitterly rebuked; and more than onc
I have been beaten for being awkward, and wantin
a graceful manner. It is true, my sister associate
me with her upon some occasions; but she alway
made a point of taking the lead, calling upon m
only from necessity, or to figure by her side.

But conceive not, Sirs, that my complaints are i

views upon their own minds.

In whatever situation men can be placed, they find conveniences and inconveniences: in what company, they may find persons and conversation more or less pleasing: at whatever table, they may meet meats and drinks of better and worse taste, dishes better and worse dressed: in whatever climate, they find good and bad weather: under whatever government, they may find good and bad laws, and good and bad administration of those laws: in whatever poem, or work of genius, they may see faults and beauties: in almost every face, and every person they may discover fine features and defects, good and bad qualites.

Under these circumstances, the two sorts of people above mentioned fix their attention; those who are disposed to be happy, on the conveniences things, the pleasant parts of conversation, the well dressed dishes, the goodness of the wines, the fine weather, &c. and enjoy all with cheerfulness. Those who are to be unhappy, think and speak only of contrarieties. Hence they are continually discontented themselves, and, by their remarks, spoil the pleasures of society; offend personally many people, and make themselves every where disagreeable. From this turn of mind was founded in nature, such unhappy persons would be the more to be pitied.

which, though in the exercise it is chiefly an act of imagination, yet it has serious consequences in life, as it brings on real griefs and misfortunes. For as many as are offended by, and nobody loves, this sort of people; no one shows them more than the most common civility and respect, and scarcely that; and this frequently puts them out of humour, and draws them into disputes and contentions. If they aim at obtaining some advantage in rank or fortune obody wishes them success, or will stir a step, o peak a word to favour their pretensions. If they incur public censure or disgrace, no one will defend or excuse, and many join to aggravate their misconduct, and render them completely odious. If these people will not change this bad habit, and condescend to be pleased with what is pleasing, without

TO MADAME BRILLIANT

You may remember, my dear friend, we lately spent that happy day, in the garden and sweet society of the *Moul* stopt a little in one of our walks, and time behind the company. We had b numberless skeletons of a kind of little fly Ephemeræ, whose successive generation told, were bred and expired within the d pened to see a living company of them on appeared to be engaged in conversation. I understand all the inferior animal tongu great application to the study of them is cause I can give for the little progress I ha your charming language. I listened thro ty to the discourse of these little creatu they, in their national vivacity, spoke t together, I could make but little of the tion. I found, however, by some bro sions that I heard now and then, they we warmly on the merit of two foreign musi *cousin*, the other a *muscheto;* in which spent their time, seeming as regardless ness of their life as if they had been sure month. Happy people, thought I, you li

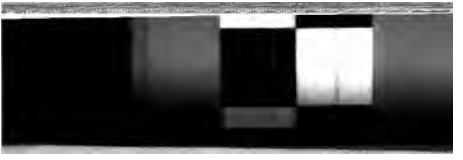
it will likewise amuse her to whom I am so much indebted for the most pleasing of all amusements, her delicious company and heavenly harmony.

"It was," says he, "the opinion of learned philosophers of our race, who lived and flourished long before my time, that this vast world, the *Moulin Joly* could not itself subsist more than eighteen hours. and I think there was some foundation for that opinion; since, by the apparent motion of the great luminary, that gives life to all nature, and which in my time has evidently declined considerably toward the ocean at the end of the earth, it must then finish its course, be extinguished in the waters that surround us, and leave the world in cold and darkness, necessarily producing universal death and destruction. I have lived 7 of those hours; a great age, being no less than 420 minutes of time! How very few of us continue so long? I have seen generations born, flourish, and expire. My present friends are children and grand-children of the friends of my youth, who are now, alas, no more! And I must soon follow them; for, by the common course of nature, though still in health, I cannot expect to live above seven or eight minutes longer. What now avails all my toil and labour, in amassing the honey-dew on this leaf, which I cannot live to enjoy. What my political struggles I have been engaged in, for the good of my compatriot inhabitants of this bush, or my philosophical studies, for the benefit of our race in general: for in politics (what can laws do without morals?) our present race of ephemeræ will in a course of minutes became corrupt, like those of other and older bushes, and consequently as wretched? And in philosophy how small our progress. Alas art is long, and life is short! My friends would comfort me with the idea of a name, they say, I shall leave behind me; and they tell me I have lived long enough to nature and to glory. But what will fame be to an ephemeræ who no longer exists? and what will become of all history in the eighteenth hour, when the world itself, even the whole *Moulin Joly*, shall come to its end, and be buried in an universal ruin?"

MORALS OF CHESS.

PLAYING at chess is the most ancient and un
sal game known among men; for its original
yond the memory of history, and it has, for nu
less ages, been the amusement of all the civ
nations of Asia, the Persians, the Indians, an
Chinese. Europe has had it above a thousand y
the Spaniards have spread it over their pa
America, and it begins to make its appearai
these States. It is so interesting in itself, as
need the view of gain to induce engaging in it
thence it is never played for money. Those,
fore, who have leisure for such diversions, c
find one that is more innocent; and the foll
piece, written with a view to correct (among
young friends) some little improprieties in the
tice of it, shows, at the same time, that it m
its effects on the mind, be not merely innocen
advantageous, to the vanquished as well
victor.

The game of chess is not merely an idle
ment. Several very valuable qualities of the



"If I move this piece, what will be the advantage of my new situation? What use can my adversary make of it to annoy me? What other moves can I make to support it, and to defend myself from his attacks?"

II. *Circumspection*, which surveys the whole chess-board, or scene of action, the relations of the several pieces and situations, the dangers they are respectively exposed to, the several possibilities of their aiding each other, the probabilities that the adversary may take this or that move, and attack this or the other piece, and what different means can be used to avoid his stroke, or turn its consequences against him.

III. *Caution*, not to make our moves too hastily. This habit is best acquired by observing strictly the

every action or word that is unfair, a
that in any way may give uneasin
avoided, as contrary to the immedia
both the players, which is to pass the t

Therefore, first, If it is agreed to pla
the strictest rules; then those rules ar
observed by both parties, and should
on for one side, while deviated from
for this is not equitable.

Secondly, If it is agreed not to ob
exactly, but one party demands i
should then be as willing to allow the

Thirdly, No false move should ev
extricate yourself out of a difficulty
advantage. There can be no pleas
with a person once detected in such u

Fourthly, If your adversary is l
you ought not to hurry him, or to
easiness at his delay. You should
whistle, nor look at your watch, nor
to read, nor make a tapping with
floor, or with your fingers on the ta
thing that may disturb his attention
things displease; and they do not sh
playing, but your craftiness or your

Fifthly, You ought not to endea
and deceive your adversary, by pr
and saying that y

with himself, by every kind of civil expression that may be used with truth; such as, "You understand the game better than I, but you are a little inattentive; or, you play too fast; or, you had the best of the game, but something happened to divert your thoughts, and that turned it in my favour."

Seventhly, If you are a spectator while others play, observe the most perfect silence. For if you give advice, you offend both parties; him against whom you give it, because it may cause the loss of his game; and him, in whose favour you gave it, because, though it be good, and he follows it, he loses the pleasure he might have had, if you had permitted him to think until it had occurred to himself. Even after a move, or moves, you must not, by replacing the pieces, show how it might have been placed better; for that displeases, and may occasion disputes

a great part of our life is spent in
which we have sometimes pleasing an
painful dreams, it becomes of some co
obtain the one kind, and avoid the oth
ther real or imaginary, pain is pain, an
pleasure. If we can sleep without dr
well that painful dreams are avoided.
sleep, we can have any pleasing dream
French say, *tant gagne*, so much added
sure of life.

To this end it is, in the first place, ne
careful in preserving health, by due
great temperance; for, in sickness, the
is disturbed; and disagreeable, somet
ideas are apt to present themselves. Ex
precede meals, not immediately follo
first promotes, the latter, unless moder
digestion. If after exercise, we feed s
digestion will be easy and good, the bo
the temper cheerful, and all the anim
performed agreeable. Sleep, when it
be natural and undisturbed. While in
full feeding, occasions night-mares and
pressible: we fall from precipices, are
wild beasts, murderers, and demons, an
every variety of distress. Observe, h
he quantities of food and exercise are re
hose who move much may, and indeed

which they sleep till doomsday. Nothing is mo
common in the newspapers, than instances of pe
ple, who, after eating a hearty supper, are found de
a-bed in the morning.

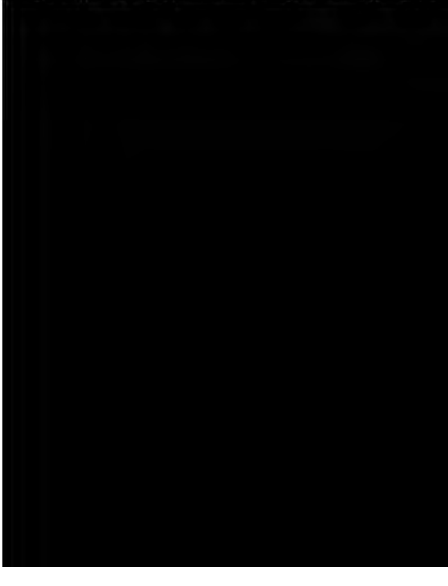
Another means of preserving health, to be atten
ed to, is the having a constant supply of fresh air
your bed-chamber. It has been a great mistake, t
sleeping in rooms exactly closed, and in beds su
rounded by curtains. No outward air, that ma
come into you, is so unwholesome as the unchange
air, often breathed, of a close chamber. As boilin
water does not grow hotter by longer boiling, if t
particles that receive greater heat can escape; so li
ing bodies do not putrefy, if the particles, as fast
they become putrid, can be thrown off. Nature e
pels them by the pores of the skin and lungs, and

deed at first, such as, with regard ... trifling sensation, and to the pores of the s of restlessness which is difficult to describ that feel it know the cause of it. But v collect, that sometimes, on waking in the have, if warmly covered, found it difficu sleep again. We turn often, without find in any position. This figettiness, to us expression for want of a better, is occasion by an uneasiness in the skin, owing to th of the perspirable matter—the bed-cloth received their quantity, and, being saturat to take any more. To become sensible o experiment, let a person keep his position but throw off the bed-clothes and suffer approach the part uncovered of his bo hen feel that part suddenly refresned; will immediately relieve the skin, by rec ing up, and carrying off, the load of pers er that incommoded it. For every po air that approaches the warm skin, in part of that vapour, receives therewith heat, that rarefies and renders it lighter, be pushed away, with its burden, by coo fore heavier fresh air; which, for a lies its place, and then, being likew and warmed, gives way to a succeed ... of nature, to prever

to the air, and that which, remaining sunk in the bed, denies the air access: for this part now manifests its uneasiness more distinctly by the comparison, and the seat of the uneasiness is more plainly perceived, than when the whole surface of the body was affected by it.

Here then is one great and general cause of unpleasing dreams. For when the body is uneasy, the mind will be disturbed by it, and disagreeable ideas of various kinds will, in sleep, be the natural consequences. The remedies, preventive and curative follow.

I. By eating moderately (as before advised for health's sake) less perspirable matter is produced in a given time; hence the bed-clothes receive it longer before they are saturated; and we may, therefore



procures sleep. A very large bed, that wil
removal so distant from the first situation
cool and sweet, may in a degree answer
enc.

One or two observations more will conc
little piece. Care must be taken, when
down, to dispose your pillow so as to suit y
ner of placing your head, and to be perfec
then place your limbs so as not to bear inco
ly hard upon one another; as for instance,
of your ancles: for though a bad position m
give but little pain, and be hardly noticed, y
tinuance will render it less tolerable, and th
ness may come on while you are asleep, an
your imagination.

These are the rules of the art. But the
will generally prove effectual in producin
intended, there is a case in which the most
observance of them will be totally fruitless.
not mention the case to you, my dear friend
account of the art would be imperfect wi
The case is, when the person who desire
the pleasant dreams has not taken care to
what is necessary, above all things,

ADVICE TO A YOUNG TRADESMAN.

Written anno 1748.

TO MY FRIEND, A. B.

As you have desired it of me, I write the following
nints, which have been of service to me, and may
if observed, be so to you.

Remember that *time* is money. He that can earn
ten shillings a-day by his labour, and goes abroad
or sits idle one half of that day, though he spends
but six pence during his diversion or idleness ought
not to reckon *that* the only expence; he has really

ings: therefore never keep ... beyond the time you promised, lest a di shut up your friend's purse for ever.

The most trifling actions that affect dit are to be regarded. The sound of at five in the morning, or nine at nigh creditor, makes him easy six months l he sees you at a billiard-table, or hears a tavern, when you should be at work his money the next day; demands it receive it in a lump.

It shows, besides, that you are mi you owe; it makes you appear a car an honest man, and that still increases

Beware of thinking all your own thi and of living accordingly. It is a mist people who have credit fall into. T keep an exact account, for some time expenses and your income. If you tal first to mention particulars, it will l effect; you will discover how wonde fling expenses mount up to large sums cern what might have been, and ma be saved, without occasioning any ...

NECESSARY HINTS TO THOSE THAT WOULD BE RICH.

WRITTEN ANNO 1736.

The use of money is all the advantage there is in having money.

For six pounds a-year you may have the use of one hundred pounds, provided you are a man of known prudence and honesty.

He that spends a groat a-day idly, spends idly above six pounds a-year, which is the price for the use of one hundred pounds.

He that wastes idly a groat's worth of his time per day, one day with another, wastes the privilege of using one hundred pounds each year.

[redacted]

At this time, when the ge...
"money is scarce," it will be an act
nform the moneyless how they may
pockets. I will acquaint them with
of money-catching—the certain way
purses—and how to keep them alwa
simple rules, well observed, will do th
First, Let honesty and industry be
companions; and,
Secondly, Spend one penny less t
gains.
Then shall thy hide-bound pocket
thrive, and will never again cry with t
ach: neither will creditors insult thee
press, no hunger bite, nor nakedne
The whole hemisphere will shine bri
sure spring up in every corner of th
therefore, embrace these rules and be
the bleak winds of sorrow from thy
independent. Then shalt thou be a
hide thy face at the approach of the
the pain of feeling little when the
walk at thy right hand: for indepen
with little or much, is good fortune, a
on even ground with the proudest
eece. Oh, then, be wise, and let ind
hee in the morning, and attend
...the evening hour for rest.

...ections made by the A

To the Authors of the Jour

MESSIEURS

You often entertain us with accounts veries. Permit me to communicate to through your paper, one that has lately by myself, and which I conceive may utility.

I was the other evening in a grand where the new lamp of Messrs. Quinquet was introduced, and much admired for dour; but a general inquiry was made, oil it consumed was not in proportion to afforded, in which case there would be n the use of it. No one present could satisfy point, which all agreed ought to be known very desirable thing to lessen, if possible pense of lighting our apartments, when e article of family expense was so much aug

I was pleased to see this general co economy, for I love economy exceedingly.

I went home, and to bed, three or four h midnight, with my head full

and that at no ....
so long as till eight o'clock. Your readers,
me have never seen any signs of sunshi
noon, and seldom regard the astronomici
the almanack, will be as much astonished
when they hear of his rising so early; ar
ally when I assured them, *that he gives ligh
as he rises.* I am convinced of this. I a
of my fact. One cannot be more certain of
I saw it with my own eyes. And having
this observation the three following morning
always precisely the same result.

Yet it so happens, that when I speak of
very to others, I can easily perceive by t
tenances, though they forbear expressing it
that they do not quite believe me. One, in
is a learned natural philosopher, has assure
must certainly be mistaken as to the circumst
light coming into my room; for it being w
as he says, that there could be no light abr
hour, it follows that none could enter fro
and that of consequence, my windows
dentally left open, instead of letting in the
only served to let out the darkness: and be
ingenious arguments to show me how I
I own t

love of economy induced me to muster up what little arithmetic I was master of, and to make some calculations, which I shall give you, after observing, that utility is, in my opinion, the test of value in matters of invention, and that a discovery which can be applied to no use, or is not good for something, is good for nothing.

I took for the basis of my calculation the supposition, that there are 100,000 families in Paris and that these families consume in the night half a pound o bougies, or candles, per hour. I think this is a moderate allowance, taking one family with another; for though I believe some consume less, I know that many consume a great deal more. Then estimating seven hours per day, as the medium quantity between the time of the sun's rising and ours, he rising during the six

sense, as soon as they have learnt from this that it is day-light when the sun rises, will c to rise with him; and, to compel the rest I propose the following regulations:

First. Let a tax be laid of a louis per wind very window that is provided with shutters out the light of the sun.

Second. Let the same salutary operatior fice be made use of to prevent our burning c that inclined us last winter to be more econo burning wood; that is, let guards be placec shops of the wax and tallow-chandlers, and r ly be permitted to be supplied with more t pound of candles per week.

Third. Let guards also be posted to stop coaches, &c. that would pass the streets af set, except those of physicians, surgeons, " wives.

Fourth. Every morning, as soon as the ses, let all the bells in every church be set ing; and if that is not sufficient, let ca fired in every street, to wake the sluggards ally, and make them open their eyes to see t interest.

[illegible] will be in the first two

great benefit of this discov
communicated and bestowed by me o
demand neither place, pension, exclu
or any other reward whatever. I e
have the honour of it. And yet I kn
little envious minds who will, as usual,
and say, that my invention was know
cients, and perhaps they may bring pa
the old books in proof of it. I will not
these people that the ancients knew not
would rise at certain hours; they poss
we have, almanacks that predicted it:
not follow from thence, that they knew i
as soon as he rose. This is what I claim
covery. If the ancients knew it, it mus
long since forgotten, for it certainly was
the moderns, at least to the Parisians; whi
I need use but one plain simple argument.
as well instructed, judicious, and pruden
as exist any where in the world, all profi
myself, to be lovers of economy; and fron
heavy taxes required from them for the ne
the state, have surely reason to be econ
say, it is impossible that so sensible a pe
such circumstances, should have
smoke

into this school, be at least able to p
divide the syllables in reading, an
agible hand. None to be received t
years of age.

FIRST, OR LOWEST CLASS.

Let the first class learn the English g
and at the same time let particular ca
improve them in orthography. Perhap
best done by pairing the scholars; two
est equal in their spelling to be put toget
strive for victory; each propounding ter
day to the other to be spelled. He tha
most of the other's words, is victor for
that is victor most days in a month, to o
a pretty neat book of some kind, usefu
ture studies. This method fixes the
children extremely to the orthography o
makes them good spellers very early. I
for a man to be so ignorant of this little a
language, as to be perpetually confound
like sound and different significations; t
ness of which defect make some men,
good learning and

To be taught reading with attention,
per modulations of the voice, accordir
ment and the subject.

Some short pieces, not exceeding tl
Spectator, to be given this class for lesse
of the easier Spectators would be very
the purpose.) These lessons might be
night as tasks; the scholars to study t
the morning. Let it then be required of
an account, first of the parts of speech, a
tion of one or two sentences. This will
to recur frequently to their grammar, and
cipal rules in their memory. Next, of th
of the writer, or the scope of the piece, t
of each sentence, and of every uncomm
This would early acquaint them with th
and force of words, and giving them that n
sary habit of reading with attention.

The master then to read the piece with
modulations of voice, due emphasis, and s
on, where action is required; and not th
nitating his manner

ties. When our boys [illegible] so imagine they understand what the we do, and because it is their moth they often read as Parrots speak, k nothing of the meaning. And it is ir er should give the due modulation pronounce properly, unless his unde fore his tongue, and makes him im ment. Accustoming boys to read a not first understand, is the cause of t so common among readers, whic once got a habit of using, they find rect; by which means, among fifty ly find a good one. For want of ces published with a view to infl men, for their own or the publi their force. Were there but on neighbourhood, a public orato throughout a nation with the sa have the same effect upon his stood within the reach of his voi

THE THIRD CL

To be taught speaking prop which is near a-kin to good re follows it in the studies of youth [illegible] begin with learning th

ing every thing that could injure the morals of youth might likewise be got by rote, and the boys exercise in delivering or acting them; great care being take to form their manner after the truest models.

For their farther improvement, and a little to var their studies, let them now begin to read history after having got by heart a short table of the principa epochs in chronology. They may begin with Rollin' ncient and Roman histories, and proceed at prope ours, as they go though the subsequent classes, wit he best histories of our own nation and colonies. Le emulation be excited among the boys, by giving weekly, little prizes, or other small encouragement to those who are able to give the best account of wha they have read, as to times, places, names of persons &c. This will make them read with attention, an imprint the history well in their memories. In re marking on the history, the master will have fine op

[redacted]

compliment, or
thanks, of recommendation, of admonitio
lation, of expostulation, excuse, &c. It
should be taught to express themselves c
cisely, and naturally, without affected wo
down phrases. All their letters to pass th
master's hand, who is to point out the fa
the corrections, and commend what he
Some of the best letters published in thei
guage, as Sir William Temple's, those of
his friends, and some others, might be set
youth as models, their beauties pointed o
plained by the master, the letters themsel
scribed by the scholar.

Dr. Johnson's *Ethices Elementa*, or First
of Morality, may now be read by the schc
explained by the master, to lay a solid foun
virtue and piety in their minds. And as
continues the reading of history, let them
proper hours, receive some farther instr
chronology and in that part of geography
mathematical master) which is necessary
stand the maps and globes. They should a
quainted with the modern names of the pl
find mentioned in ancient writers. The ex
good reading

rhyme of verse, and at the same time well express the sentiment. These essays should all pass under the master's eye, who will point out their faults, and put the writer on correcting them. Where the judgment is not ripe enough for forming new essays, let the sentiments of a Spectator be given, and required to be clothed in the scholars own words; or the circumstances of some good story: the scholar to fin expression. Let them be put sometimes on abridging a paragraph of a diffuse author: sometimes o dilating or amplifying what is wrote more closely And now let Dr. Johnson's *Noetica*, or First Principles of Human Knowledge, containing a logic, or art of reasoning, &c. be read by the youth, and the difficulties that may occur to them be explained by the master. The reading of history, and the exercises of good reading and just speaking, still continued.

SIXTH CLASS.

In this class, besides continuing the studies of the preceding in history, rhetoric, logic, moral and natural philosophy, the best English authors may be read and explained; as Tillotson, Milton, Locke, Addison, Pope, Swift, the higher papers in the Spectator and Guardian, the best translations of Homer, Virgil and Horace, of Telemachus, Travels of Cyrus, &c.

Once a-year, let there be public exercises in the hall; the trustees and citizens present. Then let fine gilt books be given as prizes to such boys as distinguish themselves, and excel the others in any branch of learning, making three degrees of comparison; giving the best prize to him that performest, a less valuable one to him that comes up next to the best; and another to the third. Commendations, encouragement, and advice to the rest, keeping up their hopes, that, by industry, they may excel another time. The names of those that obtain the prize, to be yearly printed in a list.

The hours of each day are to be divided and disposed in such a manner as that some classes may be with the writing master, improving their hands,

profession, [illegible] quired; and though unacquainted with [illegible] or foreign tongue, they will be masters of t which is of more immediate and general withal, will have attained many other val complishments. the time usually spent in those languages often without success, b employed in laying such a foundation of l and ability, as, properly improved, may qu to pass through and execute the several offi life, with advantage and reputation to them country.

ON MODERN INNOVATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE AND IN PRINTI

TO NOAH WEBSTER, JUN. ESQ. AT HA

Philadelphia, Dec.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED some time since your *Di the English Language*. It is an exc and will be greatly useful in turning th our countrymen to correct writing. Ple my thanks for it, as well as for the grea [illegible] dedication. I o

red to you, I wish, however, that in some future pub
lication of yours, you would set a discountenance
mark upon them. The first I remember in the word
improved. When I left New England in the yea
1723, this word had never been used among us, as fa
as I know, but in the sense of *ameliorated*, or *made bet
ter*, except once in a very old book of Dr. Mather's
entitled, "*Remarkable Providences.*" As that ma
wrote a very obscure hand, I remember that when
read that word in his book, used instead of the wor
employed, I conjectured that it was an error of th
printer, who had mistaken a short *l* in the writing fo
an *r*, and a *y* with too short a tail for a *v* whereby
employed was converted into *improved*: but when
returned to Boston in 1733, I found this change ha
obtained favour, and was then become common; fo
I met with it often in perusing the newspapers, wher
it frequently made an appearance rather ridiculous
Such, for instance, as the advertisement of a county

ed a knowledge of [illegible]
the books that are written in it. This gives a derable advantage to that nation. It enables i thers to inculcate and spread through other na such sentiments and opinions, on important p as are most conducive to its interests, or whicl contribute to its reputation, by promoting the mon interests of mankind. It is, perhaps, ow its being written in French, that Voltaire's T on Toleration has had so sudden and so gr effect on the bigotry of Europe, as almost enti disarm it. The general use of the French la has likewise a very advantageous effect on the of the bookselling branch of commerce; it bei known, that the more copies can be sold th struck off from one composition of types, the increase in a much greater proportion than the making a greater number of pieces in any oth of manufacture. And at present there is no town in Europe without a French bookseller corresponding with Paris. Our English bids obtain the second place. The great body of lent printed sermons in our language, and the l of our writing on political subjects, have inc great number of divines, of different sects
[illegible]

tated, would render a sentence unintelligible, which from a clear print or a distinct speaker would have been immediately comprehended. If, therefore, we would have the benefit of seeing our language more generally known among mankind, we should endeavour to remove all the difficulties, however small that discourage the learning of it. But I am sorry to observe that of late years, those difficulties, instead of being diminished, have been augmented.

In examining the English books that were printed between the Restoration and the accession of George the Second, we may observe that all substantives were begun with a capital, in which we imitated our mother-tongue, the German. This was more particularly useful to those who were not well acquainted with the English, there being such a prodigious number of our words that are both verbs and substantives, and spelt in the same manner, though often ac-

these improvements backwards, whereby that grey printing is more beautiful Hence the English new books are printed a character as to be read with difficulty unless in a very strong light, and with Whoever compares a volume of the Magazine printed between the years 17 with one of those printed in the last ten convinced of the much greater degree of given by black than by the grey. Lord pleasantly remarked this difference to F printer of the Dublin Journal, who was ing encomiums on his own paper as th plete of any in the world. "But, Mr says my Lord, "don't you think it might ther improved, by using paper and ink near of a colour?"—For all these reas but wish our American printers would tions, avoid these fancied improvements render their works more agreeable to Europe, to the great advantage of our commerce.

Farther, to be more sensible of the clear and distinct printing, let us consid ance it affords in reading well aloud to

error in our mode of printing. We are sensible that when a question is met with in the readin there is a proper variation to be used in the man agement of the voice: we have, therefore, a poin called an interrogation affixed to the question, t distinguish it. But this is absurdly placed at it end, so that the reader does not discover it till h finds that he was wrongly modulating his voice and is therefore obliged to begin again the sen tence. To prevent this, the Spanish printers, mor sensibly place an interrogation at the beginning a well as at the end of the question. We have ano ther error of the same kind in printing plays, when something often occurs that is marked as spoke *aside*. But the word *aside* is placed at the end of th speech, when it ought to precede it, as a direction t the reader, that he may govern his voice accord ingly. The practise of our ladies, in meeting fiv or six together, to form little busy parties, when

It may receive and promulgate accusation
kinds, against all persons and characters an
citizens of the state, and against all inferior
and may judge, sentence and condemn to infa
only private individuals, but public bodies, c
or without inquiry or hearing, at the court'
tion.

***Whose favour, or for whose emolument this
established.***

In favour of about one citizen in five
who, by education, or practice in scribbling
quired a tolerable style as to grammar and
tion, so as to bear printing; or who is posse
press and a few types. This five hundred
the citizens have the liberty of accusing a
ing the other four hundred and ninety-nin
their pleasure; or they may hire out their
press to others, for that purpose.

Practice of this Court.

[illegible] governed by any of the rules of

and in the same moment judged and condemned and sentence pronounced against him that he is rogue and a villian. Yet if an officer of this cour receives the slightest check for misconduct in this ni office, he claims immediately the rights of a free cit zen by the constitution, and demands to know hi accuser, to confront the witnesses, and have a fai trial by the jury of his peers.

The foundation of its authority.

It is said to be founded on an article in the stat constitution, which establishes the liberty of th press—a liberty which every Pennsylvanian woul fight and die for, though few of us, I believe, hav distinct ideas of its nature and extent. It seems indeed, somewhat like the liberty of the press, tha felons have by the common law of England befor

you: and besides tearing your private
splinters, marks you out for the odium of
as an enemy to the liberty of the press.

Of the natural support of this

Its support is founded in the depra
minds as have not been mended by reli
proved by good education.

There is a lust in man no charm can
Of loudly publishing his neighbour's s

Hence,

On eagle's wings immortal scandals
While virtuous actions are but born a

Whoever feels pain on hearing a goo
his neighbour, will feel a pleasure in
And of those who, despairing to rise in

Of the checks proper to be established against t abuses of power in those courts.

Hitherto there are none. But since so much h been written and published on the federal constit tion; and the necessity of checks in all parts of go government, has been so clearly and learnedly e plained, I find myself so far enlightened as to su pect some check may be proper in this part also; b I have been at a loss to imagine any that may not construed an infringement of the sacred liberty of t press. At length, however, I think I have found on that instead of diminishing general liberty, shall au ment it; which is, by restoring to the people a sp cies of liberty, of which they have been deprive by our laws—I mean the liberty of the cudgel! In th rude state of society, prior to the existence of laws, one man gave another ill language, the affronted pe son might return it by a box on the ear; and, if re

[redacted]

— of minds may disturb the public pe
then humbly recommend to our legisl
up the consideration of both liberties,
press, and that of the cudgel; and by ar
mark their extent and limits: and at tl
that they secure the person of a citizen f
they would likewise provide for the se
reputation.

PAPER

A POEM.

Some wit of old—such wits of old the
Whose hints show'd meaning, whose all
By one brave stroke to mark all human
Call'd clear blank paper ev'ry infant mi
When still, as opening sense her dictates
Fair virtue put a seal, or vice a blot.

The thought was happy, pertinent an
Methinks a genius might the plan pursu

Mechanics, servants, farmers, and so forth,
Are *copy-paper*, of inferior worth;
Less priz'd, more useful, for your desk decreed,
Free to all pens, and prompt at ev'ry need.

The wretch whom av'rice bids to pinch and spare,
Starve, cheat, and pilfer, to enrich an heir,
Is coarse *brown-paper;* such as pedlers choose
To wrap up wares, which better men will use.

Take next the miser's contrast, who destroys
Health, fame, and fortune, in a round of joys.
Will any paper match him? Yes, throughout,
He's a true *sinking-paper*, past all doubt.

The retail politician's anxious thought
Deems *this* side always right, and *that* stark nought,
He foams with censure; with applause he raves—
A dupe to rumours, and a tool of knaves;

leisure for making all the disquisitions a
ments which would be desirable on this
nust, therefore, content myself with a fe

The specific gravity of some human
comparison to that of water, has been e
M. Robinson, in our Philosophical Tr
volume 50, page 30, for the year 1757.
that fat persons with small bones float
upon water.

The diving bell is accurately describ
Transactions.

When I was a boy, I made two oval pa
about ten inches long, and six broad. w
for the thumb, in order to retain it fast ir
of my hand. They much resemble a pai
lets. In swimming, I pushed the edges of
ward, and I struck the water with their fla
as I drew them back: I remember I swam
means of these pallets, but they fatigued r
I also fitted to the soles of my feet a kind o
but I was not satisfied with them, because I
that the stroke is partly given by the insi
feet and the ancles, and not entirely with th
the feet.

We have here maintained [illegible]

When he is seized with the cramp in the leg, the method of driving it away is to give to the parts affected a sudden, vigorous and violent shock; which he may do in the air, as he swims on his back.

During the great heats of summer, there is no danger in bathing, however warm we may be, in rivers which have been thoroughly warmed by the sun. But to throw one's self into cold spring water, when the body has been heated by exercise in the sun, is an imprudence which may prove fatal. I once knew an instance of four young men, who, having worked at harvest in the heat of the day, with a view of refreshing themselves, plunged into a spring of cold water: two died upon the spot, a third the next morning, and the fourth recovered with great difficulty. A copious draught of cold water, in similar circumstances, is frequently attended with the same effect in North America.

The exercise of swimming is one of the most healthy

In a little time, being desirous of amusi
my kite, and enjoying at the same time
of swimming, I returned, and loosing
the string with the little stick which w
it, went again into the water, where
lying on my back, and holding the stick
I was drawn along the surface of the w
agreeable manner. Having then eng
boy to carry my clothes round the poi
which I pointed out to him, on the othe
to cross the pond with my kite, whic
quite over without the least fatigue,
greatest pleasure imaginable. I was
occasionally to halt a little in my cour
its progress, when it appeared that, by
quick, I lowered the kite too much; by
occasionally I made it rise again. I ha
that time practised this singular mode
though I think it not impossible to cros
ner from Dover to Calais. The pack
ever, is still preferrable.

self. You know the cold bath has long been in vogu here as a tonic: but the shock of the cold water hat always appeared to me, generally speaking, as to violent, and I have found it much more agreeable t my constitution to bathe in another element—I mea cold air. With this view I rise early almost ever morning, and sit in my chamber without any clothe whatever, half an hour or an hour, according to th season, either reading or writing. This practice i not in the least painful, but on the contrary, agree able; and if I return to bed afterwards, before I dres myself, as it sometimes happens, I make a supple ment to my night's rest of one or two hours of th most pleasing sleep that can be imagined. I find n ill consequences whatever resulting from it, and tha at least it does not injure my health, if it does not i fact contribute to its preservation.—I shall therefor call it a *bracing*, or *tonic* bath.

...r observations on the causes of de
experiments which you propose for rec
those who appear to be killed by lightn
strate equally your sagacity and humar
pears that the doctrines of life and death
are yet but little understood.

A toad buried in the sand will live, it
til the sand becomes petrified; and the
closed in the stone, it may live for we kn
many ages. The facts which are cited in
this opinion, are too numerous and too cir
not to deserve a certain degree of credit.
accustomed to see all the animals with w
acquainted eat and drink, it appears to u
conceive, how a toad can be supported in
geon. But if we reflect that the necessity
ment which animals experience in thei
state, proceeds from the continual waste o
stance by perspiration; it will appear le
ble, that some animals, in a torpid state,
less, because they use no exercise, should
need of aliment; and that others, which a
with scales or shells, which stop perspira
as land and sea turtles, serpents and some
fish, should be able to subsist a considerable

[illegible] at sea, and which require particular care and attention.

I have seen an instance of common flies preserved in a manner somewhat similar. They had been drowned in Madeira wine, apparently about the time it was bottled in Virginia, to be sent to London. At the opening of one of the bottles, at the house of a friend where I was, three drowned flies fell into the first glass that was filled. Having heard it remarked that drowned flies were capable of being revived by the rays of the sun, I proposed making the experiment upon these. They were therefore exposed to the sun, upon a sieve which had been employed to strain them out of the wine. In less than three hours, two of them by degrees began to recover life. They commenced by some convulsive motions in the thighs, and at length they raised themselves upon their legs, wiped their eyes with their fore feet, beat and brushed their wings with their hind feet, and soon after began to fly, finding themselves in Old England, without knowing how they came thither. The third continued lifeless until sun-set, when, losing all hopes of him, he was thrown away.

I wish it were possible, from this instance, to invent a method of embalming drowned persons in such a manner, that they may be recalled to life at any period, however distant: for, having a very ardent desire to see and observe the state of America an hundred years hence, I should prefer to an ordinary death, the being immersed in a cask of Madeira wine, with a few friends, until that time, then to be recalled to life by the solar warmth of my dear country! But since, in all probability, we live in an age too early, and too near the infancy of science, to see such an art brought in our time to its perfection, I must, for the present, content myself with the treat, which you are so kind as to promise me, of the resurrection of a fowl or a turkey-cock.

better than to keep it a secret till i
departure. Without this, you wil
errupted and tormented by visit
cquaintances, who not only m
valuable time, but make you forge
which you wish to remember; so
embarked and fairly at sea, you re
uneasiness, affairs, which you ha
accounts that you have not settle
things which you proposed to ca
which you find the want of every
it not be attended with the best c
form such a custom, and to suffer a
deranging him, to make his prepar
to set apart a few days, when the
take leave of his friends, and t
wishes for his happy return.

It is not always in one's power
ain; though great part of the pl
ness of the passage depends upo
though one must for a time be co
pany, and be in some measure un
If he is a social sensible man, oblig
disposition, you will be so much t

...useless to carry
unless you resolve to undertake the ol
and fattening them yourself. With
which is taken of them on board a shi
most all sickly, and their flesh is as tou

All sailors entertain an opinion, w.
edly originated formerly from a want o
when it has been found necessary to be
that poultry never knew when they
enough, and that when water is given
retion, they generally kill themselves
beyond measure. In consequence of t
they give them water only once in two
even then in small quantities: but as th
water into troughs inclining on one side, v
sions it to run to the lower part, it thenc
that they are obliged to mount one upon t
another in order to reach it; and there
which cannot even dip their beaks in it.
inually tantalized and tormented by thirs
unable to digest their food, which is very
hey soon fall sick and die. Some of them
ius every morning, and are thrown into
hile those which are killed for the table a
: to be eaten. To remedy this inconvenie
necessary to divide

which I have mentioned, and of whicl
have the greatest need. By distrib
them a part of your superfluity, you may
est assistance to them. You may resto
save their lives, and in short rende
which always affords the liveliest sens
ing mind.

The most disagreeable thing at sea is t
there is not, properly speaking, any pro
board. The worst sailor is generally chos
pose, who for the most part is equally dirty
the proverb used among English sailors,
meat, and the devil sends cooks. Th
who have a better opinion of Provide
otherwise. Knowing that sea air, a
or motion which they receive from the
ship, have a wonderful effect in whet
tite, they will say, that Providence ha
bad cooks to prevent them from eat
or that, knowing they would have bad
given them a good appetite to prevent
ing with hunger. However, if you l
dence, in these succours of Provider
yourself, with a lamp and a boiler, by
little spirits of wine, prepare some food

consequently forms excellent nourishment, much su perior to that of biscuit, which has not been ferment ed.

I must here observe, that this double-baked brea was originally the real biscuit prepared to keep a sea; for the word *biscuit*, in French, signifies twic baked. Peas often boil badly, and do not becom soft; in such a case, by putting a two-pound sho into the kettle, the rolling of the vessel, by means o his bullet, will convert the peas into a porridge, lik mustard.

Having often seen soup, when put upon the tabl at sea in broad flat dishes, thrown out on every sid by the rolling of the vessel, I have wished that ou tin-men would make our soup-basins with division or compartments; forming small plates, proper fo containing soup for one person only. By this dis position, the soup, in an extraordinary roll, would

it be to sacrifice the momentary ple
receive from drinking it once or tw
ea, than to encourage the numberl
are continually exercised in order
us?

A celebrated French moralist said
considered the wars which we for
get negroes, the great number who
in these wars; the multitude of tho
die in their passage, by disease, b
provisions; and, lastly, how many
cruel treatment they meet with in a
when he saw a bit of sugar, he cou
gining it covered with spots of hum
had he added to these considerations
we carry on against one another, to
the islands that produce this comm
not have seen the sugar simply spo
ne would have beheld it entirely ting

These wars make the maritime po
and the inhabitants of Paris and Lo
dearer for their sugar than those of
they are almost three hundred leag
from the sea. A pound of sugar, in

ON LUXURY, IDLENESS, AND INDUSTRY.

From a Letter to Benjamin Vaughan, Esq. written in 1784.

It is wonderful how preposterously the affairs of his world are managed. Naturally one would imagine that the interest of a few individuals should give way to general interest: but individuals manage their affairs with so much more application, industry, and address, than the public do theirs, that general interest most commonly gives way to particular. We assemble parliaments and councils, to have the benefit of their collected wisdom; but we necessarily have, at the same time, the inconvenience of their collected passions, prejudices, and private interests. By the

cap, and how ... with it. "But (said he) it proved a c congregation."—"How so?"—"Whe appeared with it at meeting, it was so that all the girls resolved to get such ladelphia; and my wife and I com whole could not have cost less th pounds."—"True (said the farmer) tell all the story. I think the cap w an advantage to us; for it was the fir our girls upon knitting worsted mit Philadelphia, that they might have buy caps and ribbons there; and you industry has continued, and is likely increase to a much greater value, ar purposes."—Upon the whole, I was to this little piece of luxury, since n were made happier by having fine c ladelphians by the supply of warm

In our commercial towns upon t tunes will occasionally be made. S grow rich will be prudent, live wit preserved what they have gained fo others, fond of showing their wealt vagant, and ruin themselves. Law

modes of luxury may be a public evil, in the same manner as it is a private one. If there be a nation, for instance, that exports its beef and linen, to pay for the importation of claret and porter, while a great part of its people live upon potatoes, and wear no shirts; wherein does it differ from the sot, who lets his family starve, and sells his clothes to buy drink? Our American commerce is, I confess, a little in this way. We sell our victuals to the islands for rum and sugar; the substantial necessaries of life for super fluities. But we have plenty, and live well never theless; though by being soberer, we might be richer

The vast quantity of forest land we have yet to clear, and put in order for cultivation, will for a long time keep the body of our nation laborious and frugal. Forming an opinion of our people, and their manners, by what is seen among the inhabitants of the sea-ports, is judging from an improper sample. The people of the trading towns may be rich and luxurious, while the country possesses all the virtues that tend to promote happiness and public prosperity. Those towns are not much regarded by the country; they are hardly considered as an essential part of the States; and the experience of the last war has shown; that their being in the possession of the enemy did not necessarily draw on the subjection of the country; which bravely continued to maintain its freedom and independence notwithstanding.

It has been computed by some political arithmeticians, that if every man and woman would work four hours each day on something useful, that labour would produce sufficient to procure all the necessaries and comforts of life; want and misery would be anished out of the world, and the rest of the twenty our hours might be leisure and pleasure.

What occasions then so much want and misery? It is the employment of men and women in works that produce neither the necessaries nor conveniences of life; who, with those who do nothing, consume necessaries raised by the laborious. To explain this:

The first elements of wealth are obtained by labour

value of my corn will be ...
me, and at the end of the year we may
clothed and better lodged. And if, in
ploying a man I feed in making bricks, I
in fiddling for me, the corn he eats is g
part of his manufacture remains to t
wealth and convenience of the family; I
fore, be the poorer for this fiddling man
rest of my family work more, or eat less
the deficiency he occasions.

Look round the world, and see the millio
in doing nothing, or in something tha
nothing, when the necessaries and co
life are in question. What is the bulk
for which we fight and destroy each o
toil of millions for superfluities, to the
and loss of many lives, by the constant
sea? How much labour is spent in buil
ting great ships, to go to China and
and coffee, to the West Indies for sug
for tobacco? These things cannot be
cessaries of life, for our ancestors l
fortably without them.

A question may be asked—Could t
employed in raising, making, or

among mankind exceeds the quantity of idleness and folly. Hence the increase of good buildings, farms cultivated, and populous cities filled with wealth, all over Europe, which a few ages since were only to be found on the coast of the Mediterranean; and this notwithstanding the mad wars continually raging, by which are often destroyed in one year, the works of many years peace. So that we may hope the luxury of a few merchants on the coast will not be the ruin of America.

One reflection more, and I will end this long rambling letter. Almost all the parts of our bodies require some expense. The feet demands shoes; the legs, stockings; the rest of the body clothing; and the belly a good deal of victuals. Our eyes, though exceedingly useful, ask when reasonable, only the cheap assistance of spectacles, which could not much impair our finances. But the eyes of other people are the eyes that ruin us. If all but myself were

granting their petition? If we cease c
against the Christians, how shall we be
with the commodities their countries pr
which are so necessary for us? If we
make slaves of their people, who, in this h
are to cultivate our lands? Who are to p
common labours of our city, and of ou
Must we not then be our own slaves? A
not more compassion and more favour
Musoulmen than to those Christian dogs?-
now above fifty thousand slaves in and ne
This number, if not kept up by fresh su
soon diminish, and be gradually annih
them, we cease taking and plundering th
ships, and making slaves of the seamen a
gers, our lands will become of no value, f
cultivation; the rents of houses in the cit
one half; and the revenues of governme
from the share of prizes, must be totally d
And for what? To gratify the whim of a
sect, who would have us not only forbe
more slaves, but even manumit those we l
who is to indemnify their masters for the l
the state do it? Is our treasury sufficient i

when not compelled.—And what is there so pitiable in their present condition? Were they not slaves in their own countries? Are not Spain, Portugal, France and the Italian states, governed by despots, who hold all their subjects in slavery, without exception? Even England treats her sailors as slaves: for they are, whenever the government pleases, seized and confined in ships of war, condemned not only to work but to fight for small wages, or a mere subsistence not better than our slaves are allowed by us. Is their condition then made worse by their falling into our hands? No: they have only exchanged one slavery for another; and I may say a better: for here they are brought into a land where the sun of Islamism gives forth its light, and shines in full splendour, and they have an opportunity of making themselves acquainted with the true doctrine, and thereby save their immortal souls. Those who re

ness and nudity, clear proofs to the co
can the plundering of infidels be in tha
forbidden; since it is well known from
has given the world, and all that it co
faithful Musselmen, who are to enjoy i
fast as they conquer it. Let us then he
this detestable proposition, the ma
Christian slaves, the adoption of whi
depreciating our lands and houses, an
priving so many good citizens of the
create universal discontent, and prov
tions, to the endangering of government
ing general confusion. I have, therefo
that this wise council will prefer the
happiness of a whole nation of true bel
whim of a few Erika, and dismiss their

The result was, as Martin tells us, t
came to this resolution: "That the c
the plundering and enslaving the Christi
is at best problematical: but that it is
of this state to continue the practice, is
fore, let the petition be rejected."—A
jected accordingly.

And since like motives are apt to pr
minds of men, like opinions and resoluti

OBSERVATIONS ON WAR.

By the original laws of nations, war and extirpation were the punishment of injury. Humanizing by degrees, it admitted slavery instead of death: a farther step was, the exchange of prisoners instead of slavery: another, to respect more the property of private persons under conquest, and be content with acquired dominion. Why should not this law of nations go on improving? Ages have intervened between its several steps; but as knowledge of late increases rapidly, why should not those steps be quickened? Why should it not be agreed to, as the future law of nations, that in any war hereafter, the following description of men should be undisturbed, have the protection of both sides, and be permitted to follow their employments in security? viz.

that many cruises are made wherei
overgo the gains; and, as is the case
ies, though particulars have got priz
adventures are losers, the whole expe
all the privateers during a war bein
than the whole amount of goods take

Then there is the national loss of a
so many men during the time they
ployed in robbing: who besides spen
in riot, drunkenness and debauche
habits of industry; are rarely fit for
ness after a peace, and serve only
number of highwaymen and house-b
the undertakers, who have been fo
sudden wealth led into expensive livir
which continues when the means o
cease, and finally ruins them: a just
their having war only and unfeelingl
honest, innocent traders and their fa
substance was employed in serving th
terests of mankind.

ON THE IMPRESS OF SEA

otes, opinion from ...

et A B C and D go out and fight for us, while we stay at home and sleep in whole skins; that is not equal, and therefore cannot be just.

Ib. "Employ."—If you please. The word signifies engaging a man to work for me, by offering him such wages as are sufficient to induce him to prefer my service. This is very different from compelling him to work on such terms as I think proper.

Ib. "This service and employment," &c.—These are false facts. His employment and service are not the same.—Under the merchant he goes in an unarmed vessel, not obliged to fight, but to transport merchandize. In the king's service he is obliged to fight, and to hazard all the dangers of battle. Sickness on board of king's ships is also more common and more mortal. The merchant's service, too, he can quit at the end of the voyage; not the king's. Also, the merchant's wages are much higher.

Ib. "I am very sensible," &c.—Here are two things put in comparison that are not comparable: viz. injury to seamen, and inconvenience to trade. Inconvenience to the whole trade of a nation will not justify injustice to a single seamen. If the trade would suffer without his service, it is able and ought to be willing to offer him such wages as may induce him to afford his service voluntarily.

Page 159. "Private mischief must be borne with patience, for preventing a national calamity." Where is this maxim in law and good policy to be found? And how can that be a maxim which is not consistent with common sense? If the maxim had been, that private mischiefs, which prevent a national calamity, ought to be generously compensated by the nation, one might understand it: but that such private mischiefs are only to be borne with patience is absurd!

Ib. "The expedient, &c. And," &c. (Paragraphs 2 and 3.)—Twenty ineffectual or inconvenient schemes will not justify one that is unjust.

Ib. "Upon the foot of &c.—Your reasoning, indeed, like a lie, stands but upon one *foot;* truth upon two.

Page 160. "Full wages."—Probably the same they had in the merchants' service.

... ...y, and he
private mischief the inconvenienc
kingdom.—But if, as he suppose
the sailor who is pressed and oblig
defence of trade, at twenty-five
could get three pounds fifteen sh
chants' service, you take from hi
month; and if you have 100,000 i
rob this honest industrious part of
poor families of 250,000l. per mo
lions a year, and at the same tin
hazard their lives in fighting for th
trade; to the defence of which al
contribute (and sailors among the r
to their profits by it: but this three
than their share, if they do not pay w
but when you force that, methinks y
the other.

But, it may be said, to give the ki
chants' wages would cost the natio
and call for more taxes. The qu
amount to this: whether it be just
that the richer part should compel t
in defence of them and their pro
wages as they think fit to allow. an

press captains, lieutenants, second lieutenants, midshipmen, pursers, nor many other officers. Why, but that the profits of their places, or the emoluments expected, are sufficient inducements? The business then is, to find money, by impressing sufficient to make the sailors all volunteers, as well as their officers: and this without any fresh burden upon trade. The second of my premises is, that twenty-five shillings a month, with his share of the he salt beef, pork, and peas-pudding, being found sufficient for the subsistence of a hard-working seaman, it will certainly be so for a sedentary scholar or gentleman. I would then propose to form a treasury, out of which encouragements to seamen should be paid. To fill this treasury, I would impress a number of civil officers, who at present have great salaries, oblige them to serve in their respective offices for twenty-five shillings a month with their share of mess provisions, and throw the rest of their salaries into the seamen's treasury. If such a press warrant were given me to execute, the first I would press should be a Recorder of Bristol, or a Mr. Justice Foster, because I might have need of his edifying example, to show how much impressing ought to be borne with; for he would certainly find, that though to be reduced to twenty-five shilling a month might be a "*private mischief*," yet that, agreeably to his maxim of law and good policy, it "*ought to be borne with patience*," for preventing a national calamity. Then I would press the rest of the judges; and, opening the red book, I would press every civil officer of government from 50l. a year salary up to 50,000l. which would throw an immense sum into our treasury: and these gentlemen could not complain, since they would receive twenty-five shillings a month, and their rations; and this without being obliged to fight. Lastly, I think I would impress * * *

MY DEAR FRIEND,

AMONG the pamphlets you lately sent entitled, *Thoughts on Executive Justic* for that, I send you a French one subject, *Observations concernant l'E l'Article II. de la Declaration sur le Vo* both addressed to the judges, but written see, in a very different spirit. The Eng for hanging *all* thieves. The Frenchm portioning punishments to offences.

If we really believe, as we profess to the law of Moses was the law of God, t Divine wisdom, infinitely superior to what principle do we ordain death a ment of an offence, which, according to t only to be punished by a restitution of put a man to death for an offence wh deserve death, is it not murder? And as writer says, *Doit-on punir un delit co par un crime contre la nature!*

Superfluous property is the creatur

no deer of your own, and being hungry, should kill one, an infamous death must be the consequence," he would probably have preferred his liberty, and his common right of killing any deer, to all the advantages of society that might be proposed to him.

That it is better a hundred guilty persons should escape, than that one innocent person should suffer, is a maxim that has been long and generally approved; never, that I know of, controverted. Even the sanguinary author of the *Thoughts* agrees to it, adding well, "that the very thought of *injured* innocence, and much more that of *suffering* innocence, must awaken all our tenderest and most compassionate feelings, and at the same time raise our highest indignation against the instruments of it. But," he adds, "there is no danger of *either*, from a strict

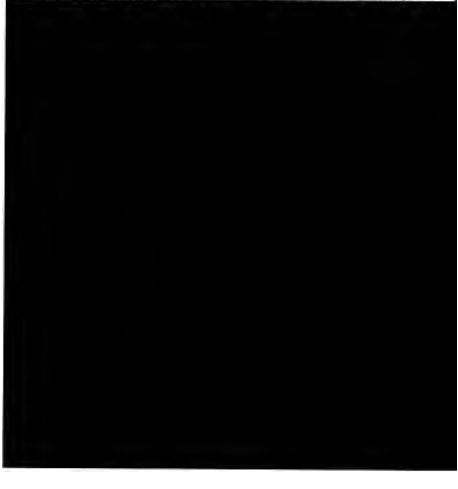
death should not pass against him, and a
that it was hard to hang a man for *only*
horse, was told by the judge, "Man, thou
be hanged *only* for stealing a horse, but th
may not be stolen." The man's answer, if
examined, will, I imagine, appear reaso
being founded on the eternal principles of ju
equity, that punishments should be propo
offences; and the judge's reply brutal and
able, though the writer "wishes all judges t
with them whenever they go the circuit, an
it in their minds, as containing a wise reas
the penal statutes which they are called up
in execution. It at once illustrates," says
true grounds and reasons of all capital pun
whatsoever, namely, that every man's pro
well as his life, may be held sacred and in
Is there then no difference in value between
and life? If I think it right that the crime o
should be punished with death, not only as
punishment of the crime, but to prevent ot
ders, does it follow that I must approve of
the same punishment for a little invasion on
perty by theft? If I am not myself so barb
[illegible]

* L'atrocité des loix en empêche l'exécution.

" Lorsque la peine est sans mesure, on est souven obligé de lui préférer l'impunité.

" La cause de tous les relâchemens vient de l'im punité des crimes, et non de la moderation de peines."

It is said by those who know Europe generally that there are more thefts committed and punishe annually in England, than in all the other nation put together. If this be so, there must be a cause o causes for such a depravity in our common people May not one be the deficiency of justice and morali ty in our national government, manifested in ou oppressive conduct to subjects, and unjust wars o our neighbours? View the long-persisted in, unjust monopolizing treatment of Ireland, at length acknow ledged! View the plundering government exercise by our merchants in the Indies; the confiscatin war made upon the American colonies; and, to sa



the face to condemn the crime in mass, hang up twenty of them in a morning! I puts one in mind of a Newgate anecdote. prisoners complained, that in the night had taken his buckles out of his shoes. " devil!" says another, " have we then *thieve* us? It must not be suffered. Let us sear rogue, and pump him to death."

There is, however, one late instance of merchant who will not profit by such ill-g He was, it seems, part-owner of a ship, other owners thought fit to employ as marque, which took a number of Fre The booty being shared, he has now an inquiring, by an advertisement in the C those who have suffered the loss, in ord them, as far as in him lies, restitution. scientious man is a quaker. The Scr terians were formerly as tender; for t extant an ordinance of the town-coun burgh, made soon after the Reformation, the purchase of prize goods, under pain freedom of the burgh for ever, with o ments at the will of the magistrate; th

a war be just or unjust; he is to execute his orders. All princes, who are disposed to become tyrants, must probably approve of this opinion, and be willing to establish it; but is it not a dangerous one? since, on that principle, if the tyrant commands his army to attack and destroy not only an unoffending neighbour nation, but even his own subjects, the army is bound to obey. A negro slave, in our colonies, being commanded by his master to rob or murder a neighbour or do any other immoral act may refuse; and the magistrate will protect him in his refusal. The slavery then of a soldier is worse than that of a negro! A conscientious officer, if not restrained by the apprehension of its being imputed to another cause, may indeed resign, rather than be employed in an unjust war; but the private men are slaves for life; and they are, perhaps, incapable of judging for themselves. We can only lament their fate, and still more that of a sailor, who is often dragged by force from his honest occupation, and compelled to imbrue

With unchangeable esteem ar
I am, my dear f

---

* This offer having been accepted by the 'ate
treaty of amity and commerce was concluded b
and the United States, containing the following
thropic article, in the formation of which Dr. F
American plenipotentiaries, was principally conc

ART. XXIII. If war should arise between
parties, the merchants of either country, then r
shall be allowed to remain nine months to collect
tle their affairs, and may depart freely, carrying
without molestation or hindrance; and all w
scholars of every faculty, cultivators of the earth
turers, and fisherman unarmed, and inhabiting un
lages, and places, and, in general, all others wh
for the common subsistence and benefit of mankin
to continue their respective employments, and sh
in their persons, nor shall their houses or goods
wise destroyed, nor their fields wasted by the arm
my into whose power, by the events of war, they
but if any thing is necessary to be taken from them
armed force, the same shall be paid for at a reaso
all merchant and trading vessels employed in exch
of different places, and thereby rendering the nece
ces, and comforts of human life

REMARKS CONCERNING THE SAVAGES OF NORTH AMERICA.

Savages we call them because their manners differ from ours, which we think the perfection of civility; they think the same of theirs.

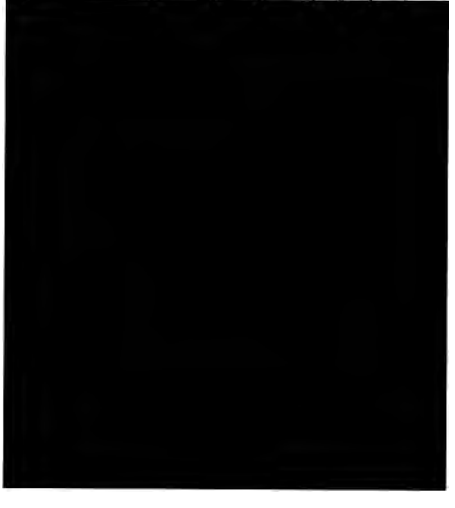
Perhaps if we could examine the manners of different nations with impartiality, we should find no people so rude as to be without any rules of politeness; nor any so polite as not to have some remains of rudeness.

The Indian men when young, are hunters and warriors; when old, counsellors; for all their government is by the council and advice of the sages; there is no force, there are no prisons, no officers, to compel obedience, or inflict punishment. Hence they generally study oratory; the best speaker hav-

highly esteem the kind of learning
colleges, and that the maintenance o
while with you would be very expen
are convinced, therefore, that you
good by your proposal; and we thi
But you who are wise must know,
tions have different conceptions of
will therefore not take it amiss, if
kind of education happen not to b
yours. We have had some experie
of our young people were formerly
colleges of the northern provinces
structed in all your sciences; but
back to us, they were bad runners;
means of living in the woods; unal
cold or hunger; knew neither how
take a deer, or kill an enemy; spo
imperfectly; were therefore neithe
warriors, or counsellors: they wer
nothing. We are however not thi
your kind offer, though we decline
and to show our grateful sense of it
of Virginia will send us a dozen
will take great care of their educati

exact. He that would speak, rises. The rest observe a profound silence. When he has finished, and sits down, they leave him five or six minutes to recollect, that if he has omitted any thing he intended to say or has any thing to add, he may rise again and deliver it. To interrupt another, even in common conversation, is reckoned highly indecent. How different this is from the conduct of a polite British House of Commons, where scarce a day passes without some confusion, that makes the speaker coarse in calling to order; and how different from the mode of conversation, in many polite companies of Europe, where if you do not deliver your sentences with great rapidity, you are cut off in the middle of it by the impatient loquacity of those you converse with, and never suffered to finish it!

The politeness of these savages in conversation is indeed carried to excess; since it does not permit



so broil some parts of it. When t
satisfy their hunger, they beheld
woman descend from the clouds, a
that hill which you see yonder amo
tains. They said to each other,
perhaps has smelt our broiled venis
at of it; let us offer some to her.
her with the tongue: she was pleas
of it, and said, 'Your kindness sha
Come to this place after thirteen
shall find something that will be o
nourishing you and your children t
rations. They did so, and to thei
plants they had never seen before;
that ancient time, have been cons
among us, to our great advantage.
hand had touched the ground, the
where her left hand touched it, the
beans; and where her backside ha
found tobacco." The good missi
with this idle tale, said, "What I
were sacred truths; but what you
fable, fiction and falsehood." The
replied, "My brother, it seems your
done you justice in your education

se we hide behind bushes, where you are to
nd never intrude ourselves into your company."
ir manner of entering one another's villages
kewise its rules. It is reckoned uncivil in tra-
; strangers to enter a village abruptly, with-
ving notice of their approach. Therefore, as
is they arrive within hearing, they stop and
, remaining there till invited to enter. Two
n usually come out to them and lead them in
is in every village a vacant dwelling, called the
ers house. Here they are placed, while the
en go round from hut to hut, acquainting the
tants that strangers are arrived, who are pro-
hungry and weary, and every one sends them
he can spare of victuals, and skins to repose
When the strangers are refreshed, pipes and
o are brought: and then, but not before, con-
on begins, with inquiries who they are, whither
, what news, &c. and it usually ends with of-
f service, if the strangers have occasion for
, or any necessaries for continuing their jour-
ind nothing is exacted for the entertainment.
same hospitality, esteemed among them as a
al virtue, is practised by private persons; of
Conrad Weiser, our interpreter, gave me the
ng instance. He had been naturalized among
x Nations, and spoke well the Mohuck lan-
In going through the Indian country, to car-
nessage from our governor to the council at
aga, he called at the habitation of Canasse-
n old acquaintance, who embraced him, spread
r him to sit on, placed before him some boiled
and venison, and mixed some rum and water
drink. When he was well refreshed, and had
pipe, Canassetego began to converse with him:
him how he had fared the many years since
ad seen each other, whence he then came, what
oned the journey, &c. Conrad answered all
estions; and when the discourse began to flag,
dian, to continue it, said, "Conrad, you have
ng among the white people, and know some-
f their customs; I have been sometimes at
and have observed, that once in seven days

say, and I will tell you my reasons.
Albany, to sell my skins and buy
powder, rum, &c. You know I
deal with Hans Hanson; but I wa
his time to try some other mercha
called first upon Hans, and asked hi
give for beaver. He said he could n
four shillings a pound: but, says
on business now; this is the day
gether to learn *good things*, and I
ing. So I thought to myself, since
business to-day, I may as well go to
and I went with him. There sto
black, and began to talk to the pe
I did not understaud what he said
that he looked much at me, and at I
ed he was angry at seeing me the
sat down near the house, struck fir
waiting till the meeting should brea
too, that the man had mentioned son
I suspected it might be the subject
So, when they came out, I accost
'Well, Hans,' says I, 'I hope yo
give more than four shillings a po

ters one of our cabins, we all treat him as I do you; we dry him if he is wet, we warm him if he is cold, and give him meat and drink, that he may allay his thirst and hunger; and we spread soft furs for him to rest and sleep on: we demand nothing in return.* But if I go into a white man's house at Albany, and ask for victuals and drink, they say, Where is your money? and if I have none, they say, Get out, you Indian dog. You see that they have not learned those little *good things* that we need no meetings to be instructed in, because our mothers taught them us when we were children; and therefore it is impossible their meetings should be, as they say, for any such purpose, or have any such effect; they are only to contrive *the cheating of Indians in the price of beaver*."

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* It is remarkable that, in all ages and countries, hospitality ha

I see, with pleasure, that we th
alike on the subjects of English Ame
colonies have never insisted that we
empt from contributing to the comm
cessary to support the prosperity of t
only assert, that having parliaments
not having representatives in that of (
parliaments are the only judges of w
what we ought to contribute in this
the English parliament has no right
ney without our consent. In fact, th
is not a single state; it comprehe
though the parliament of Great Brita
to itself the power of taxing the co
more right to do so, then it has to tax
have the same king, but not the same

The dispute between the two coun
lost England many millions sterling,
in its commerce, and America has
been a proportionable gainer. This
sisted principally of superfluities; o
and fashion, which we can well do w
resolution we have formed of impor
our grievances are redressed has e

A Comparison of the Conduct of the Ancient Jews, and of the Antifederalists in the United States of America.

A ZEALOUS advocate for the proposed Federal Constitution in a certain public assembly said, that "the repugnance of great part of mankind to good government was such, that he believed that if an angel from heaven was to bring down a constitution formed there for our use, it would nevertheless meet with violent opposition."—He was reproved for the supposed extravagance of the sentiment; and he did not justify it.—Probably it might not have immediately occurred to him, that the experiment had been tried, and that the event was recorded in the most faithful of all histories, the Holy Bible; otherwise he might as it seems to me, have supported his opinion by that unexceptionable authority.

The Supreme Being had been pleased to nourish

nconvenience or hardship, though
unavoidable effect of their change
claimed against their leaders as the
trouble; and were not only for retu
but for stoning their deliverers.* T
idolatry were displeased that their
destroyed. Many of the chiefs thou
stitution might be injurious to their
ests, that the profitable places would
the families and friends of Moses
others equally well born excluded.
and the Talmud, we learn some pa
fully narrated in the Scripture. W
" that Korah was ambitious of the
offended that it was conferred on
as he said, by the authority of Mo
the consent of the people. He accus
ing, by various artificers, fraudule
government, and deprived the peo
ties; and of conspiring with Aaron
tyranny in their family. Thus, tho
motive was the supplanting of Aar
the people that he meant only the
they, moved by his insinuations, be

imposed upon us by the Egyptians, and shall we suffer ourselves to be made slaves by Moses? If we must have a master, it were better to return to Pharaoh, who at least fed us with bread and onions, than to serve this new tyrant, who by his operations has brought us into danger of famine.' Then they called in question the *reality of his conferences* with God; and objected to the privacy of the meeting, and the preventing any of the people from being present at the colloquies, or even approaching the place, as grounds of great suspicion. They accused Moses also of *peculation;* as embezzling part of the golden spoons and the silver chargers, that the princes had offered at the dedication of the altar,* and the offerings of gold by the common people,† as well as most of the poll-tax;‡ and Aaron they accused of pocketing much of the gold of which he pretended to have made a molten calf. Besides peculation, they charged Moses with ambition; to gratify which passion, he had, they said, deceived the people, by promising

in the p... people the value of an... injury." But his enemies had made ... with some success among the populace; so ... of accusation is so readily made, or easily ... by knaves, as the accusation of knavery.

In fine, no less than two hundred and f... principal men, "famous in the congregati... renown,"† heading and exciting the mo... them up to such a pitch of frenzy, that ... out, Stone 'em, stone 'em, and thereby ... liberties; and let us chose other captain... may lead us back into Egypt, in case we ... cede in reducing the Canaanites.

On the whole, it appears that the Isra... people jealous of their new-acquired li... jealousy was in itself no fault: but the ... suffered it to be worked upon by artful ... ing public good, with nothing really ... prevail interest, they were led to oppos... ment of the new constitution, whereb... upon themselves much inconvenience ... It farther appears from the same ines... that when, after many ages, the cons... come old and much abused, and a... ...posed, the populace, as t... ...f making ...

To conclude, I beg I may not be understood to infer, that our general covention was divinely inspired when it formed the new federal constitution, merely because that constitution has been unreasonably and vehemently opposed; yet I must own, I have so much faith in the general government of the world by Providence, that I can hardly conceive a transaction of such momentous importance to the welfare of millions now existing, and to exist in the posterity of a great nation, should be suffered to pass without being in some degree influenced, guided, and governed by that omnipotent, omnipresent, and benecent Ruler, in whom all inferior spirits live, and move, and have their being.

rate the condition of seafaring people,
work. In France, the art of construct
long been a favourite study, and many i
in that branch have originated with th
the last of the Frenchmen, who have m
siderable improvement in this respect, is
who has constructed a vessel well adapt
rivers, where the depth of water is inc
and that yet was capable of being navi
with great ease. This he effected in a gr
by the particular mode of rigging, whi
mariners much greater power over the
they could have when of the usual constru

I do not hear that this improvement
case been adopted in Britain. But the
that would result from having a vessel
draught of water to sail with the same
and to lie equally near the wind, as one m
is sharper built, are so obvious, that ma
have been desirous of falling upon some
fect it. About London, this has been att
means of *lee boards* (a contrivance now s
known as not to require to be here partic
cribed) and not without effect. But the
ject to certain inc

be at the same time very simple and extremely efficacious. Necessity, in this case, as in many others, was the mother of invention. He had a small, flat, ill-built boat, which was so ill constructed as scarcely to admit of carrying a bit of sail on any occasion, and which was at the same time so heavy to be rowed, that he found great difficulty in using it for his ordinary occasions. In reflecting on the means that might be adopted for giving this useless cable such a hold of the water as to admit of his employing a sail when he found it necessary, it readily occurred that a greater depth of keel would have this tendency. But a greater depth of keel, though it would have been useful for this purpose, he easily foresaw, would make his boat be extremely inconvenient on many other occasions. To effect both purposes, he thought of adopting a moveable keel, which would admit of being let down or taken up at pleasure. This idea he immediately carried into effect, by fixing a bar of iron of the depth he wanted, along each side of the keel, moving upon hinges that admitted of being moved in one direction, but which could not be bent back in the opposite direction. Thus, by means of a small chain fixed to each end, these moveable keels could be easily lifted up at pleasure; so that when he was entering into a harbour, or shoal water, he had only to lift up his keels, and the boat was as capable of being managed there, as if he had wanted them entirely; and when he went out to sea, where there was depth enough, by letting them down, the lee keel took a firm hold of the water, (while the other floated loose) and gave such a steadiness to all its movements, as can scarcely be conceived by those who have not experienced it.

This gentleman one day carried me out with him in his boat to try it. We made two experiments. At first, with a moderate breeze, when the moveable keels were kept up, the boat when laid as near the wind as it could go, made an angle with the wake of about thirty degrees; but when the keels were let down, the same angle did not exceed five or six degrees; *being nearly* parallel with the course.

is certain, that if our false kee
down, we could scarcely, in that
vanced one foot for her three.

It is unnecessary to point out to
nefits that may be derived from
certain circumstances, as these
to them.

NORTH-WEST PAS

Notwithstanding the many fi
nave been made to discover
into the South Seas, it would
ant geographical question is r
for at a meeting of the Academy
held on the 13th of November l
geographer to the king, read
cerning the north-west passag
an intelligent captain of a v
Spain, charged with the care of
favourable to the marine, has
nation of the archives of seve
he has found the relation of

cording to M. Bauche, between William's Sound and Mount St. Elias. The Russians and Captain Cook have not observed it, because it is very narrow. But it is to be wished, that this important discovery should be verified, which has been overlooked for two centuries, in spite of the attempts which have been made on these coasts. M. Bauche calls this passage the Straits of Ferrer.

POSITIONS TO BE EXAMINED.

1. All food, or subsistence from mankind, arises from the earth or waters.

2. Necessaries of life that are not foods, and a

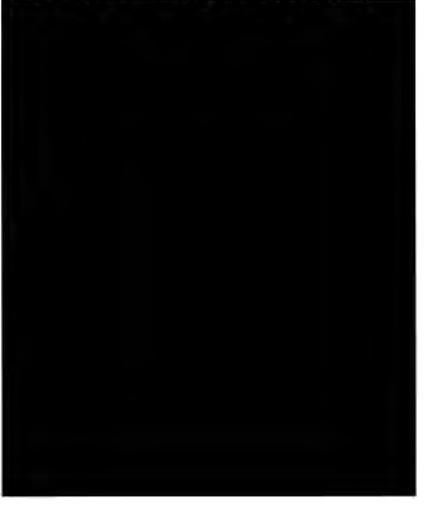
changed for equal, the expense of tr
Thus, if it costs A in England, as
charge to raise a bushel of wheat
France to produce four gallons of w
gallons of wine the fair exchange
wheat, A and B meeting at half d
commodities to make the exchange.
of this fair commerce is, that each p
number of his enjoyments, having,
alone, or wine alone, the use of
wine.

9. Where the labour and expe
both commodities are known to both
will generally be fair and equal.
known to one party only, bargains
equal, knowledge taking its advant

10. Thus he that carries a tho
wheat abroad to sell, may not pr
great a profit thereon, as if he ha
wheat into manufactures, by sub
the workmen while producing tho
since there are many expediting
methods of working, not genera
strangers to the manufactures, th
pretty well the expense of raising

worked into lace, yet the very cause of its worth twenty shillings is that, besides the t has cost nineteen shillings and sixpence in ence to the manufacturer. But the advanf manufactures, that, under their shape, ions may be more easily carried to a foreign t; and by their means our traders may more cheat strangers. Few, where it is not made, iges of the value of lace. The importer may id forty, and perhaps get thirty shillings for hich cost him but twenty.

Finally, there seems to be but three ways for n to acquire wealth. The first is by war, as omans did, in plundering their conquered ours; this is robbery.—The second by com- which is generally cheating.—The third by lture, the only honest way, wherein a man re- a real increase of the seed thrown into the l in a kind of continued miracle, wrought by



I HAVE heard, that nothin
pleasure as to find his wor
other learned authors. This
joyed; for though I have be
vanity, an eminent author
now a full quarter of a cen
in the same way (for what
ever been very sparing in
other author has taken the le
did not my writings produc
the great deficiency of prai
couraged me.

I concluded, at length, th
best judges of my merit, fi
and, besides, in my rambles,
ally known, I have frequentl
my adages repeated, with
at the end on't. This gave
it showed not only that my i
ed, but discovered likewise
theority: and I own, that to

country? How shall we be ever able to pay them? What would you advise us to?" Father Abraham stood up, and replied,—"If you'd have my advice, I'll give it to you in short; 'for a word to the wise is enough; and many words wont fill a bushel,' as poor Richard says." They joined in desiring him to speak his mind; and, gathering round him, he proceeded as follows:

"Friends (says he) and neighbours, the taxes are indeed very heavy; and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our idleness, three times as much by our pride, and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us, by allowing an abatement. However, let us hearken to good advice, and something may be done for us; 'God helps them

'Early to bed, and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy,

"So what signifies wishing and h
times? We make these times better
selves. 'Industry needs not wish,' a
says; 'He that lives upon hope w
'There are no gains without pains;
for I have no lands; or if I have t
taxed;' and, (as poor Richard lik
'He that hath a trade hath an esta
hath a calling hath an office of prof
but then the trade must be worked at
well followed, or neither the estate n
enable us to pay our taxes. If we
we shall never starve; for, as poo
'At the working-man's house hung
dares not enter.' Nor will the bailif
ble enter; for, 'Industry pays debts
creaseth them,' says poor Richard.
you have found no treasure, nor has
left you a legacy? 'Diligence is the
luck,' as poor Richard says; and
things to industry, then plough deep

day; 'Let not the sun look down, and say, Inglorious here he lies!' Handle your tools without mittens; remember, that 'the cat in gloves catches no mice,' as poor Richard says. It is true, there is much to be done, and perhaps you are weak-handed; but stick to it steadily, and you will see great effects; for, 'continual dropping wears away stones, and by diligence and patience the mouse ate into the cable; and light strokes fell great oaks,' as poor Richard says in his Almanac, the year I cannot just now remember

"Methinks I hear some of you say, 'must a man afford himself no leisure?'—I will tell thee, my friend what poor Richard says: 'Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure; and since thou art not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour.' Leisure is time for doing something useful: this leisure the diligent man will obtain, but the lazy man never; so, that as poor Richard says, 'A life of leisure and

and again, 'Not to oversee
your purse open.' Trustir
s the ruin of many: for, a
ne affairs of the world, m
but by the want of it;' but
fitable; for, saith poor Dic
dious, and riches to the ca
to the bold, and heaven to
ther, 'If you would have a
that you like, serve yoursel
eth to circumspection and c
matters, because sometime
breed great mischief;' addi
the shoe was lost; for wan
lost: and for want of a h
being overtaken and slain b
of care about a horse-shoe r

"So much for industry, t
to one's own business; bu
frugality, if we would mak
tainly successful. A man n
to save as he gets 'keep hi
grindstone, and die not wo
fat kitchen makes a lean

"Away than with your expensive follies, and you will not have much cause to complain of hard times, heavy taxes, and chargeable fam'lies; for, as poor Dick says,

"Women and wine, game and deceit,
Make the wealth small, and the want great.'

"And, farther, 'What maintains one vice, would bring up two children.' You may think, perhaps that a little tea, or a little punch now and then, diet a little more costly, clothes a little finer, and a little entertainment now and then, can be no great matter; but remember what poor Richard says, 'Many a little makes a meikle;' and farther, 'Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship;' and again, 'Who dainties love, shall beggars prove;' and, moreover, 'Fools make feasts, and wise men eat

these and other extravagances, the g
to poverty, and forced to borrow of
formerly despised, but who, throu
frugality, have maintained their st
case, it appears plainly, 'A plough
higher than a gentleman on his kne
ard says. Perhaps they have had
them, which they knew not the getti
'It is day, and will never be night;
spent out of so much, is not worth r
and a fool (as poor Richard says
shillings and twenty years can ne
always be taking out of the meal-tu
ting in, soon comes to the bottom;'
says, 'When the well is dry the
of water.' But this they might ha
if they had taken his advice: 'If
the value of money, go and try to l
he that goes a borrowing goes a so
deed, so does he that lend to such
goes to get it in again.' Poor Dic
and says,

'Vessels large may venture more,
But little boats should keep near shore.'

'is, however, a folly soon punished; for, 'Pride
at dines on vanity, sups on contempt,' as poor
ichard says. And in another place, 'Pride break-
sted with Plenty, dined with Poverty and supped
ith Infamy.' And, after all, of what use is this
ride of appearance, for which so much is risked, so
uch is suffered? It cannot promote health, or ease
ain, it makes no increase of merit in the person; it
astensmisfortune.

'What is a butterfly? at best,
He's but a caterpillar drest;
The gaudy fop's his picture just,'

s poor Richard says.

'But what madness must it be to run in debt for

[redacted]

your bargain, you may, perhaps, think
ment; but 'Creditors (poor Richard
better memories than debtors;' and in
he says, 'Creditors are a superstitio
observers of set days and times.' T
round before you are aware, and the de
before you are prepared to satisfy it. (
your debt in mind, the term which at fi
long, will as it lessens, appear extremely
will seem to have added wings to his he
at his shoulders. 'Those have a sho
poor Richard) who owe money to be pa
Then since, as he says, 'The borrowe
the lender, and the debtor to the credi
the chain, preserve your freedom, and r
independency: be industrious and fre
and free. At present, perhaps, you ma
selves in thriving circumstances, and
bear a little extravagance without injur

'For age and want save while you
No morning sun lasts a whole day.

as poor Richard says. Gain may be t

This doctrine, my friends, is reason and wisdom but, after all, do not depend too much upon your own industry and frugality, and prudence, though excellent things; for they may be blasted, without the blessing of Heaven: and therefore ask that blessing humbly, and be not uncharitable to those that at present seem to want it, but comfort and help them. Remember Job suffered, and was afterwards prosperous.

"And now, to conclude, 'Experience keeps a dear school; but fools will learn in no other, and scarce in that; for it is true, we may give advice, but we cannot give conduct,' as poor Richard says. However, remember this, 'They that will not be counselled, cannot be helped,' as poor Richard says; and further, that 'If you will not hear Reason, she will surely rap your knuckles.'"

Thus the old gentleman ended his harrangue. The people heard it, and approved the doctrine, and immediately practised the contrary, just as if it had

Being a true Description of the Interest of that vast Continent.

THERE is a tradition, that in the planti England, the first settlers met with many and hardships: as is generally the case w lized people attempt establishing them wilderness country. Being piously dis sought relief from Heaven, by laying thei distresses before the Lord, in frequent fasting and prayer. Constant meditati course on these subjects kept their minds discontented; and, like the children of were many disposed to return to that persecution had induced them to abandor when it was proposed in the Assembly another fast, a farmer of plain sense marked, that the inconveniences they concerning which they had so often wea with their complaints, were not so great [illegible] and were diminishing

day to this they have, in every year, observed circumstances of public felicity sufficient to furnish employment for a thanksgiving day; which is therefore constantly ordered and religiously observed.

I see in the public newspapers of different States frequent complaints of *hard times*, *deadness of trade*, *scarcity of money*, &c. &c. It is not my intention to assert or maintain that these complaints are entirely without foundation. There can be no country or nation existing, in which there will not be some people so circumstanced as to find it hard to gain a livelihood; people, who are not in the way of any profitable trade, with whom money is scarce, because they have nothing to give in exchange for it: and it is always in the power of a small number to make a great clamour. But let us take a cool view of the general state of our affairs, and perhaps the prospect will appear less gloomy than has

encouragement to increase building
ployment to an abundance of work
the increased luxury and splendou
inhabitants thus made richer. T
demand and obtain much higher
other part of the world would affo
paid in ready money. This rank o
do not, or ought not, to complain o
they make a very considerable par
bitants.

At the distance I live from o
eries, I cannot speak of them with
tainty; but I have not heard that
valuable race of men employed in t
or that they met with less success,
volution. The whale-men indeed
ed of one market for their oil, but
opening for them, which it is hoped
vantageous; and the demand is c
ing for their spermaceti candles, w
a much higher price than formerly

There remain the merchants
Of these, though they make but
whole nation, the number is con

leading easier lives, turn shopkeepers, the whol
natural quantity of that business divided amon
them all may afford too small a share for each, an
occasion complaints that trading is dead: these ma
also suppose that it is owing to scarcity of money
while, in fact, it is not so much from the fewness o
buyers, as from the excessive number of sellers, tha
the mischief arises; and, if every shopkeeping farme
and mechanic would return to the use of his plough
and working tools, there would remain of widows
and other women, shop-keepers sufficient for the busi
ness, which might then afford them a comfortabl
maintenance.

Whoever has travelled through the various parts o
Europe, and observed how small is the proportion o
people in affluence or easy circumstances there, com-
pared with those in poverty and misery; the few rich
and haughty landlords, the multitude of poor, abject
rack-rented, tythe-paying tenants, and half-paid and

to ruin. They observe, that no
without economy, and that the
come of a whole people from the
of their country may be dissipate
less expenses; and poverty be
place of affluence. This may be
ever, rarely happens; for there s
nation a greater proportion of inc
which tend to enrich, than of id
ity, which occasion poverty; so
there is a continual accumula
Spain, Gaul, Germany, and Brita
the Romans, inhabited by peo
our savages, and consider the
present possess, in numerous v
proved farms, rich moveables,
with valuable manufactures, to
jewels and coined money; and a
ing their bad, wasteful, plunderi
their mad destructive wars; an
travagant living has never suffer
those countries. Then consider
of industrious frugal farmers in
parts of these American State

ortations, and thereby grow richer:—if, in
ich may admit of dispute, the desire of
ourselves with fine clothes, possessing fine
with elegant houses, &c. is not, by strong
g to labour and industry, the occasion of
; a greater value than is contn ued in the
on of that desire.
riculture and fisheries of the United States
eat sources of our increasing wealth. He
a seed into the earth is recompensed, per
eceiving forty out of it, and he who draws
f our water draws up a piece of silver.
and there is no doubt but we shall) be at
these, and then the power of rivals, with
restraining and prohibiting acts, cannot
: us. We are sons of the earth and seas,
Antæus in the fable, if in wrestling with a
we now and then receive a fall, the touch

MANY persons in Europe have
ters, expressed to the writer of
quainted with North America, t
porting and establishing themsel
but who appear to have formed,
mistaken ideas and expectations
tained there; he thinks it may be
inconvenient, expensive, and fru
voyages of improper persons, if
er notions of that part of the wo
have hitherto prevailed.

He finds it is imagined by nu
habitants of North America are
warding, and disposed to reward,
that they are at the same time ignc
ces, and consequently that strange
in the belles-lettres, fine arts, &c.
teemed, and so well paid as to
themselves; that there are also
fitable offices to be disposed of w
not qualified to fill; and that ha
family among them, strangers of

few people so miserable as the poor of Europe, there are also very few that in Europe would be called rich: it is rather a general happy mediocrity that prevails. There are few great proprietors of the soil, and few tenants; most people cultivate their own lands, or follow some handicraft or merchandise; very few rich enough to live idly upon their rents or incomes, or to pay the high prices given in Europe for painting, statutes, architecture, and the other works of art that are more curious than useful. Hence the natural genuises that have arisen in America, with such talents, have uniformly quitted that country for Europe, where they can be more suitably rewarded. It is true that letters and mathematical knowledge are in esteem there, but they are at the same time more common than is apprehended; their being already existing nine colleges, or universities, viz. four in New England, and one in each of the provinces of New York, New Jersy, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and

hopes of obtaining [illegible]
ca; and as to military offices, they are a
the war, the armies being disbanded.
it advisable for a person to go thither,
other quality to recommend him than h
Europe it has indeed its value; but it is
ty that cannot be carried to a worse ma
that of America, where people do not
cerning a stranger, *What is he?* but *Wh*
If he has any useful art, he is welcom
exercises it, and behaves well he will be
all that know him: but a mere man of
on that account wants to live upon
some office or salary, will be despised a
ed. The husbandman is in honour th
the mechanic, because their employme
The people have a saying, that God Al
self a mechanic, the greatest in the uni
is respected and admired more for the
nuity, and utility of his handicraft w
the antiquity of his family. They are
the observation of a negro, and frequer
that Boccarorra (meaning the white
black man workee, make de horse wo
ox workee, make ebery ting workee,

others, mere *fruges consumere nati*,* and otherwise *good* for *nothing*, till by their death their estates, like the carcass of the negro's gentleman-hog, come to be *cut up*.

With regard to the encouragements for strangers from government, they are really only what are derived from good laws and liberty. Strangers are welcome, because there is room enough for them all, and therefore the old inhabitants are not jealous of them; the laws protect them sufficiently, so that they have no need of the patronage of great men; and every one will enjoy securely the profits of his industry. But if he does not bring a fortune with him he must work and be industrious to live. One or two years residence give him all the rights of a citizen; but the government does not at present, whatever it may have done in former times, hire people to become settlers, by paying their passage, giving land, negroes, utensils, stock, or any other kind of emolument whatsoever. In short, America is the land of

have emerged from the mean
were born.

From the salubrity of the a
climate, the plenty of good
couragement to early marria
subsistence in cultivating th
inhabitants by natural gene
America, and becomes still n
of strangers: hence there is a
more artisans of all the nece
to supply those cultivators of
and with furniture and utens
which cannot so well be brou
lerably good workmen in any
are sure to find employ, and t
work, there being no restrain
from exercising any art they
permission necessary. If the
first as servants or journeymen
industrious, and frugal, they
establish themselves in busine
lies, and become respectable c

Also persons of moderate
who having a number of child
desirous of bringing them up t
cure estates to their posterity,
doing it in America, which E

sylvania, for ten pounds per hundred acres, which, after twenty years, when the settlements had been extended far beyond them, sold readily, without any improvement made upon them, for three pounds per acre. The acre in America is the same with the English acre, or the acre of Normandy.

Those who desire to understand the state of government in America, would do well to read the constitutions of the several States, and the articles of confederation which bind the whole together for general purposes, under the direction of one Assembly, called the Congress. These constitutions have been printed, by order of Congress, in America; two editions of them have been printed in London; and a good translation of them into French, has lately been published at Paris.

Several of the princes of Europe having of late, from an opinion of advantage to arise by producing all commodities and manufactures within their own dominions, so as to diminish or render useless their importations, have endeavoured to entice workmen from other countries, by high salaries, privileges, &c. Many persons pretending to be skilled in various great manufactures, imagining that America must be in want of them, and that the Congress would probably be disposed to imitate the princes abovementioned, have proposed to go over on condition of having their passage paid, lands given, salaries appointed, exclusive privileges for terms of years, &c. Such persons, on reading the articles of confederation, will find that the Congress have no power committed to them, or money put into their hands, for such purposes; and hat, if any such encouragement is given, it must be by the government of some separate state. This, however, has rarely been done in America; and when it has been done, it has rarely succeeded, so as to establish a manufacture, which the country was not yet so ripe for as to encourage private persons to set it up; labour being generally too dear, difficult to be kept together, every one desiring to be a master, and the cheapness of land inclining many to leave trades for agriculture. Some indeed have met with success,

in America produce indeed a good d
flax, and none is exported—it is all
it is in the way of domestic manufac
of the family. The buying up quant
flax, with the design to employ spi
&c. and form great establishments,
tities of linen and woollen goods fo
several times attempted in differen
these projects have generally failed
value being imported cheaper. A
vernments have been solicited to supp
by encouragements, in money, or by
an importation of such goods, it ha
refused, on this principle, that if th
for the manufacture, it may be carri
persons to advantage; and, if not, i
of forcing nature. Great establishm
ture require great numbers of poor
small wages; those poor are to be
but will not be found in America,
all taken up and cultivated, and th
ple who cannot get land want en
manufacture of silk, they say, is u
as that of cloth in England, beca

projects. The people by this means are not imposed on either by the merchant or mechanic: if the merchant demands too much profit on imported shoes, they buy of the shoemaker; and if he asks too high a price, they take them of the merchant: thus the two professions are checks on each other. The shoemaker however has, on the whole, a considerable profit upon his labour in America, beyond what he had in Europe, as he can add to his price a sum nearly equal to all the expenses of freight and commission, risk or assurance, &c. necessarily charged by the merchant. And the case is the same with the workman in every other mechanic art. Hence it is, that the artisans generally live better and more easily in America than in Europe; and such as are good economists make a comfortable provision for age, and for their children. Such may, therefore move with advantage to America.

In the old long-settled countries of Europe, all arts, trades, professions, farms, &c. are so full, that it is difficult for a poor man who has children to place them where they may gain, or learn to gain, a decent livelihood. The artisans, who fear creating future rivals in business, refuse to take apprentices, but upon conditions of money, maintenance or the like, which the parents are unable to comply with. Hence the youth are dragged up in ignorance of every gainful art, and obliged to become soldiers, or servants, or thieves, for a subsistence. In America the rapid increase of inhabitants takes away that fear of rivalship, and artisans willingly receive apprentices from the hope of profit by their labour, during the remainder of the time stipulated, after they shall be instructed. Hence it is easy for poor families to get their children instructed; for the artisans are so desirous of apprentices, that many of them will even give money to the parents, to have boys from ten to fifteen years of age bound apprentices to them, till the age of twenty-one; and many poor parents have, by that means, on their arrival in the country, raised money enough to buy land sufficient to establish themselves, and *to subsist* the rest of the family by agriculture.

lodging, and at its ... suit of clothes, but also, that he shall write, and cast accounts; and tha instructed in the art or profession some other, by which he may after lihood, and be able in his turn to r copy of this indenture is given to his friends, and the magistrate kee to which recourse may be had, in the master in any point of perfor sire among the masters to have m ed in working for them, induces th sage of young persons of both sexe rival, agree to serve them one, years; those who have already agreeing for a shorter term, in skill, and the consequent immed service; and those who have n longer term, in consideration of their poverty would not permit their own country.

The almost general mediocrity vails in America, obliging its p business for subsistence, those w ... are in a great

either an atheist or an infidel. And the Divine Being seems to have manifested his approbation of the mutual forbearance and kindness with which the different sects treat each other, by the remarkable prosperity with which he has been pleased to favour the whole country.

THOUGHTS ON COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS.

Of Embargoes upon Corn, and of the Poor.

In inland high countries, remote from the sea, and whose rivers are small, running *from* the country, and not to it, as is the case with Switzerland; great distress may arise from a course of bad harvests, if public graneries are not provided, and kept well stored. Anciently, too, before navigation was so general, ships so plenty, and commercial transactions so well established; even maratime countries might be occasionally distressed by bad crops. But such is now the facility of communication between those countries, than an unrestrained commerce can scarce ever fail of procuring a sufficiency for any of them. If indeed any government is so imprudent as to lay its hands on imported corn, forbid its exportation, or compel its sale at limited prices, there the people may suffer some famine from merchants avoiding their ports. But wherever commerce is known to be always free, and the merchant absolute master of his commodity, as in Holland, there will always be a reasonable supply.

When an exportation of corn takes place, occasioned by a higher price in some foreign countries, a

to take a low price, not of the j
one that eats bread, even the
relieving the poor is incumbe
this operation the whole burde
who is to relieve the rich at t
poor, too, those who are main
have no right to claim this sacr
while they have their allowanc
nce to them, whether bread
Those working poor, who no
five or *four* days in the week
dear as to oblige them to work
by the commandment, do not
so as to have a right to publi
then remain, comparatively,
every district, who from sickn
of children, will be so distress
corn, as need relief; and these
by particular benefactions, wi
farmer's profit.

Those who fear, that exporta
the country of corn, as to starv
never did, nor never can happe
when they view the tide ebbing

therefore a more steady encouragement to agriculture. The nation would all have bread at this middle price; and that nation, which at any time inhumanly refuses to relieve the distresses of another nation, deserves no compassion when in distress itself.

Of the Effect of Dearness of Provisions upon Working, and upon Manufactures.

The common people do not work for pleasure generally, but from necessity. Cheapness of provisions make them more idle; less work is then done, it is then more in demand proportionally, and of course the price rises. Dearness of provisions obliges the manufacturer to work more days and more hours; thus more work is done than equals the usual demand: of course it becomes cheaper, and the manufactures in consequence.

were only necessaries pern
men would work no more
hat purpose.

Of the Prohibition with respec
Gold and S

Could Spain and Portugal
ecuting their foolish laws for
as Locke calls it, and have
gold and silver, those metals v
been of little more value thar
Their plenty would have less
see the folly of these edicts;
prohibitory and restrictive lav
made with intention to bring a
from our trade with foreign
money, and laws to prevent th
ing that money, which if the
executed, would make money
little value; I say, are not su
Spanish edicts; follies of the sa

other produce will not suit, in exchange for the pro-
duce of some other country that furnishes what we
have more occasion for, or more desire. When we
have, to an inconvenient degree, parted with our
gold and silver, our industry is stimulated afresh to
procure more; that by its means we may contrive to
procure the same advantages.

Of Restraints upon Commerce in Time of War.

When princes make war by prohibiting commerce
each may hurt himself as much as his enemy.—
Traders, who by their business are promoting the com-
mon good of mankind, as well as farmers and fish-
ermen, who labour for the subsistence of all, should
never be interrupted or molested in their business
but enjoy the protection of all in the time of war, as
well as in the time of peace.

This policy, those we are pleased to call barbari-

every individual in the cou
seeming temporary evil arisi
its own cure.

HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF A CUSTOM AMONG THE AMERICANS, ENTITLED WHITE-WASHING.

Attributed to the Pen of Dr. Franklin

Although the following article has not yet appeared in any collection of the works of this great philosopher, we are inclined to receive the general opinion (from the plainness of the style, and the humour which characterizes it) to be the performance of Dr Franklin.—

My wish is to give you some account of the people of these new States, but I am far from being qualified for the purpose, having as yet seen little more than the cities of New York and Philadelphia. I have discovered but few national singularities among

fect. But if, when the husband rises in t
ng, he should observe in the yard a whe
with a quantity of lime in it, or should se
buckets with lime dissolved in water, the
no time to be lost; he immediately loc
apartment or closet where his papers or h
property is kept, and putting the key in h
betakes himself to flight: for a husband,
beloved, becomes a perfect nuisance durin
son of female rage, his authority is super
commission is suspended, and the very scu
cleans the brasses in the kitchen, become
consideration and importance than him.
nothing for it but to abdicate, and run fr
which he can neither prevent nor mollify.

"The husband gone, the ceremony begins.
are in a few minutes stripped of their
paintings, prints, and looking-glasses, lie in
heap about the floors; the curtains are tor
tasters, the beds crammed into the windo
and tables, bedsteads and cradles, crowd
and the garden-fence bends beneath the
carpets, blankets, cloth cloaks, old coats,
breeches. *Here* may be seen the lumber

escapes unrummaged. It would seem as if the day of general doom was come, and the utensils of the house were dragged forth to judgment. In this tempest the words of Lear naturally present themselves, and might, with some alteration, be made strictly applicable:

——"Let the great gods,
That keep this dreadful pudder o'er our heads,
Find out their enemies now. Tremble, thou wretch,
That hast within thee, undivulged crimes
Unwhip'd of justice!"—
——"Close pent-up guilt,
Raise your concealing continents, and ask
These dreadful summoners grace!"

This ceremony completed, and the house thoroughly evacuated, the next operation is to smear the walls and ceilings of every room and closet with brushes dipped in a solution of lime called *white-wash*: to pour buckets of water over every floor, and scratch all the partitions and wainscots with rough brushes wet with soap-suds, and dipped in stone-cutter's sand. The windows by no means escape the general deluge. A servant scrambles out upon the pent-house, at the risk of her neck, and with a mug in her hand, and a bucket within reach, she dashes away innumerable gallons of water against the glass panes; to the great annoyance of the passengers in the street.

I have been told that an action at law was once brought against one of these water-nymphs by a person who had a new suit of clothes spoiled by this operation; but after long argument, it was determined by the whole court, that the action would not lie, inasmuch as the defendant was in the exercise of a *legal right*, and not answerable for the consequences; *and so the poor* gentleman was doubly non suited.

gether: recollect if you can the hurry,
sion, and noise of such a scene, and
some idea of this cleaning match. T
is, that the sole object is to make th
matters not how many useful, ornamе
ble articles are mutilated, or suffer d
operation; a mahogany chair and cai
dergo the same discipline; they ar
clean at all events; but their preservat
thy of attention. For instance a fine l
is laid flat upon the floor; smaller j
upon it, and the superincumbent we
glasses of the lower tier; but this is of n
A valuable picture is placed leani
sharp corner of a table; others are
against that, until the pressure of t
the corner of the table through the
first. The frame and glass of a fine
cleaned; the spirit and oil used o
are suffered to leak through and spoil
no matter, if the glass is clean, and t
it is sufficient; the rest is not worthy c
An able Arithmetician has made an
lation, founded on long experience, a

colds from the exhalations of wet floors or dam walls.

I know a gentleman, who was fond of accountin for every thing in a philosophical way He consider this, which I have called a custom, a real periodica disease, peculiar to the climate. His train of reason ing is ingenuious and whimsical; but I am not a leisure to give you a detail. The result was, that h found the distemper to be incurable; but after muc study he conceived he had discovered a method t divert the evil he could not subdue. For this pur pose he caused a small building, about twelve fee square, to be erected in his garden, and furnishe with some ordinary chairs and tables; and a fe prints of the cheapest sort were hung against th walls. His hope was, that when the white-washin frenzy seized the females of his family, they migh repair to this apartment, and scrub, and smear, an

papers ... times serious detriment. For instance

A gentleman was sued by the executo man, on a charge found against him in books, to the amount of 30*l*. The c strongly impressed with an idea that he ed the debt and taken a receipt; but action was of long standing, he knew find the receipt. The suit went on the time approached when judgment w ed against him. He then sat serious amine a large bundle of old papers, untied and displayed on a table for th the midst of his search, he was sudden on business of importance; he forg door of his room. The housemaid, long looking out for such an opport ately entered with the usual implem great alacrity fell to cleaning the roo things *to rights*. The first object tha was the confused situation of the pap these were without delay bundled many dirty knives and forks; but in th piece of paper fell unnoticed on the fl pened to be the very receipt in que

[illegible] appearance, it

regulation of the police; but, on further inquiry, find it is a religious rite, preparatory to the sabbath; and is, I believe, the only religious rite in which the numerous sectaries of this city perfectly agree. The ceremony begins about sun-set, and continues till about ten or eleven at night. It is very difficult for a stranger to walk the streets on those evenings; he runs a continual risk of having a bucket of dirty water thrown against his legs; but a Philadelphian born, is so much accustomed to the danger, that he voids it with surprising dexterity. It is from this circumstance that a Philadelphian may be known any where by his gait. The streets of New York are paved with rough stones; these indeed are now washed, but the dirt is so thoroughly swept from be fore the doors, that the stones stand up sharp and prominent, to the great inconvenience of those who are not accustomed to so rough a path. But habi

SIR,

I HAVE lately seen a letter upo
white-washing, in which that mer
good house-wife is treated with u
I should probably have forgot th
this time; but the season coming
women think suitable for cleansing
from smoke and dirt of the winter
author dished up in every family
performance quoted wherever a
exercise her reasonable prerogati
duties of her station. Women gene
time to better purposes than scrib
and comforts of a family rest prin
shoulders; hence it is that there a
authors; and the men, knowing h
attentions are to their happiness, ta
nity of discouraging literary accom

I say, women generally employ their time to muc
better purposes than scribbling; otherwise this fac
tious writer had not gone so long unanswered. W
have ladies who sometimes lay down the needle, an
take up the pen; I wonder none of them have a
tempted some reply. For my part, I do not preten
to be an author. I never appeared in print in m
life, but I can no longer forbear saying something
answer to such impertinence, circulate how it ma
Only, sir, consider our situation. Men are natural
inattentive to the decencies of life; but why should
be so complaisant? I say, they are naturally filth
creatures. If it were not that their co...exion wit
the refined sex polished their manners, and had
happy influence on the general economy of life, the
lords of the creation would wallow in filth, and p
pulous cities would infect the atmosphere with the
noxious vapours. It is the attention and assiduit
of the women that prevent men from degeneratin

could sufficiently discover that he a
any one operation. I was glad o
and with good reason too: for, afte
himself with mischief, like a monke
and had called the servants to c
away, I took a view of the scene m
ed. I shall not even attempt a mi
suffice it to say, that he had overset
stained my best mahogany table
spilt a quantity of vitriol, and bur
my carpet: my marble hearth w
with melted rosin: besides this, he
chine cups, four wine glasses, two
of my handsomest decanters. A
said before, I perceived that he ha
any one operation. By the bye, t
white-wash scribbler, that this is o
our closets become furnished wit
bowls, cracked tumblers, broken
of tea-pots, and stoppers of dep
say, I took a view of the dirt a
philosophic husband had occasi
sat, like Patience on a monumer
but it worked inwardly. I woul
vitriol had been

you do?" "O Lord! I am almost fatigued to death, I have been all the morning making philosophical experiments." I was now more hardly put to it to smother a laugh, than I had been just before to contain my rage; my *precious* went out soon after, and I, as you may suppose, mustered all my forces, brushes, buckets, soap, sand, limeskins and cocoa-nut shells, with all the powers of housewifery, were immediately employed. I was certainly the best philosopher of the two; for my experiments succeeded, and his did not. All was well again, except my poor carpet—my vitriolized carpet, which still continued a mournful momento of philosophic fury or rather philosophic folly. The operation was scarce over, when in came my experimental philosopher, and told me, with all the indifference in the world, that he had invited six gentlemen to dine with him at three o'clock. It was then past one

dirty thing to be removed is one's hus
alled for again

Adieu.

FINAL SPEECH OF DR. FRANKLIN IN THE LATE FEDERAL CONVENTION.*

MR. PRESIDENT,

I CONFESS that I do not entirely approve of this constitution at present; but, Sir, I am not sure I shall never approve it; for having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged, by better information, or fuller consideration, to change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is, therefore, that the older I grow, the more apt I

potic government, being incap
doubt too, whether any other
tain, may be able to make a b
when you assemble a numbe
advantage of their joint wisd
semble with those men all thei
sions, their errors of opinion,
and their selfish views. From
a perfect production be exp
astonishes me, Sir, to find thi
so near to perfection as it does
astonish our enemies, who are
dence, to hear that our councils
those of the builders of Babylon
are on the point of separation, o
for the purpose of cutting each o

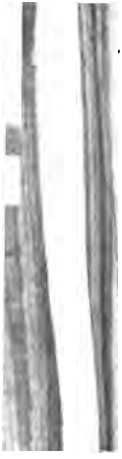
Thus, I consent, Sir, to this co
expect no better, and because I a
is not the best. The opinions I h
I sacrifice to the public good. I
ed a syllable of them abroad.
they were born, and here they
one of us, in returning to our c
report the objections he has

shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this constitution, wherever our influence may extend and turn our future thoughts and endeavours to the means of having it well administered.

On the whole Sir, I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention, who may still have objections, would with me, on this occasion doubt a little of his own infallibility, and, to make manifest our unanimity put his name to this instrument.

[The motion was then made for adding the last formula, viz.

Done in Convention, by the unanimous consent &c. which was agreed to, and added accordingly.



terest.

We have got a large quantit
hundred and twenty ton, and th
Powder mills are now wanting;
set to work and make it by hand
with you, that pikes could be
would add bows and arrows: th
pons, and not wisely laid aside.

1. Because a man may shoot
as with a common musket.

2. He can discharge four arr
charging and discharging one bu

3. His object is not taken frc
smoke of his own side.

4. A flight of arrows seen com
fies and disturbs the enemy's atte

5. An arrow sticking in any pa
hors du combat till it is extracte

6. Bows and arrows are m
every where than muskets and a

Polydore Virgil, speaking of
against the French in Edward
mentions the great confusion th
into *sagittarum nube*, from the

decisive: then your proposed solemn league and covenant will go better down, and perhaps most of our other strong measures be adopted.

I am always glad to hear from you, but I do not deserve your favours, being so bad a correspondent. My eyes will now hardly serve me to write by night, and these short days have been all taken up by such variety of business that I seldom can sit down ten minutes without interruption, God give you success!

I am, with the greatest esteem,

Yours affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN

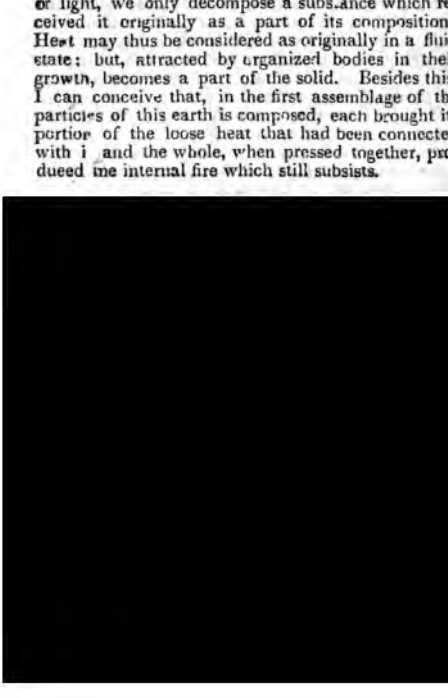
of fluid on which it rested.
compressed by art so as to be
ter, in which case, if such ai
contained in a strong glass ve
seen to take the lowest place,
above and upon it; and, as w
gree of density to which air m
M. Amontons calculated, that
as it approached the centre in
above the surface, it would at
be heavier than gold, possibly
pying the internal parts of t
compressed. And as the force
air when heated, is in proporti
central air might afford anot
surface, as well as be of use in
tral fires; though, as you obs
faction of water, coming into c
may be an agent sufficiently st
when acting between the incu
which it rests.

If one might indulge ima
how such a globe was forme
that all the elements in separa

other matter mixed with the lighter air, would descend and the two, meeting, would form the shell of the firs earth, leaving the upper atmosphere nearly clear The original movement of the parts towards thei common centre would form a whirl there; whicl would continue in the turning of the new-formed glob upon its axis, and the greatest diameter of the shel would be in its equator. If by any accident after wards the axis should be changed, the dense interna fluid, by altering its form, must burst the shell, and throw all its substance into the confusion in which w find it. I will not trouble you at present with my fancies concerning the manner of forming the rest o our system. Superior beings smile on our theories and at our presumption in making them. I will just mention that your observation of the ferruginous na ture of the lava, which is thrown out from the depth of our volcanoes, gave me great pleasure. It ha

water, and others covered
rising and sinking in the differet e
leagues! Such an operation as this
ed much of Europe, and, amon
mountain of Passy, on which I
composed of limestone, rock an
abandoned by the sea, and to ch
mate, which seems to have been a
being now become a perfect mag
safe from any future change of i
still subject to the accidents o
are occasioned by a wave in th
fluid: and such a wave is pro
violent explosion you mention
junction of water and fire under
only lifts the incumbent earth t
sion, but, impressing with the
under it, creates a wave that
leagues, lifting, and thereby sh
the countries under which it
whether I have expressed m
to get out of your sight in th
occasion any new inquiries,
hypothesis, they will not be q

P. S. I have heard that chemists can by their art decompose stone and wood, extracting a considerable quantity of water from the one, and air from the other. It seems natural to conclude from this that water and air were ingredients in their original composition: for men cannot make new matter of any kind. In the same manner do we not suppose that when we consume combustibles of all kinds and produce heat or light, we do not create the heat or light, we only decompose a substance which received it originally as a part of its composition. Heat may thus be considered as originally in a fluid state: but, attracted by organized bodies in their growth, becomes a part of the solid. Besides this I can conceive that, in the first assemblage of the particles of this earth is composed, each brought its portion of the loose heat that had been connected with it and the whole, when pressed together, produced the internal fire which still subsists.



troying the flesh, and is then ca
fluid so entering and acting is c

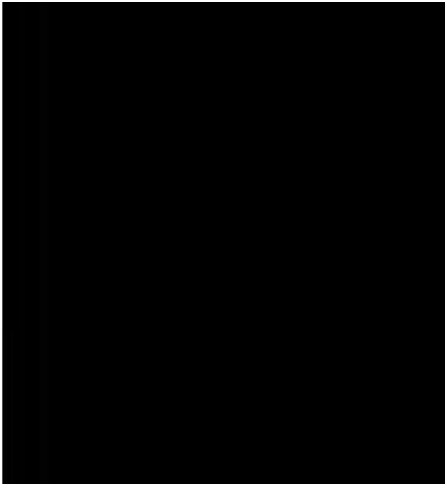
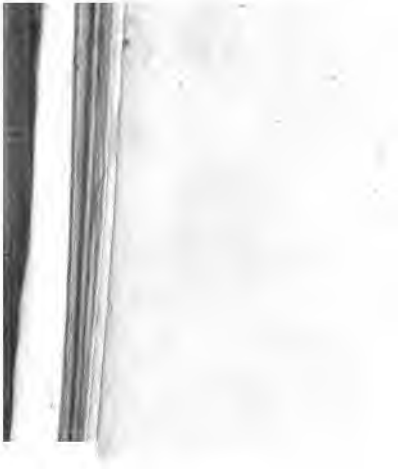
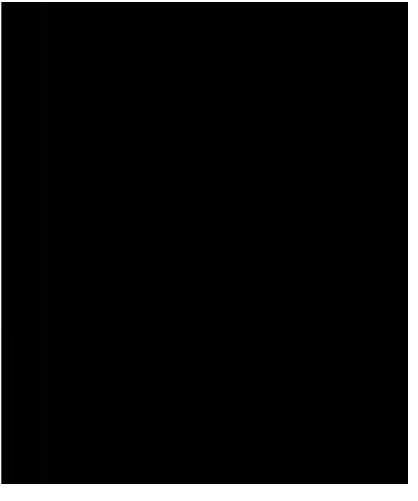
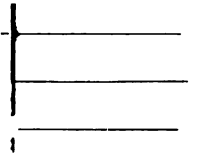
While organized bodies, ani
augmenting in growth, or are
tinual waste, is not this done b
solidating this fluid called fire
part of their substance? and it
the parts of such substance,
solid state, sets that subtle fl
again makes its appearance as

For the power of a man rel
limited to the dividing it, or mix
of it, or changing its form and
ing compositions of it; but d
making or creating of new m
the old: thus, if fire be an orig
of matter, its quantity is fixed
world. We cannot destroy any
addition to it; we can only s
which confines it, and so set it a
put wood in a situation to be
from one solid to another, as wh
burning stone, a part of the fire
wood being left in the stone.

this fluid to mount with the matters to which it h
attached, as smoke or vapour?

Does it not seem to have a great affinity with
water, since it will quit a solid to unite with that
fluid, and go off with it in vapour, leaving the solid
cold to the touch, and the degree measurable by the
thermometer?

The vapour rises attached to this fluid; but at
a certain height they separate, and the vapour de-
cends in rain, retaining but little of it, in snow or
hail less. What becomes of that fluid? Does it rise
above our atmosphere, and mix equally with the
universal mass of the same kind? Or does a spheri-
cal stratum of it, denser, or less mixed with air, at-
tracted by this globe, and repelled or pushed up only
to a certain height from its surface, by the greater
weight of air remain there surrounding the globe
and proceeding with it round the sun?

In such case, as there may be a continuity or com-
munication of this fluid through the air quite down to

g globes that sometime
course round the sun, have t
t, and burst when their incl
fied by the heat on the burnin